

Communio Sanctorum: Holy Feast

SERMON NOTES AND STUDY QUESTIONS – FEBRUARY 16, 2020 – 1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17

Sermon Notes

1. **The Communio Sanctorum lives by _____ alone, not by its doing** (Galatians 3:2-3).
2. **Nothing is less _____ than Holy Communion.**
 - 1 Cor. 1:25. *For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*
3. **Nothing is more _____ than Holy Communion.**
 - 1 Cor. 10:16 - *The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.*
 - **The Sacrament is the _____.**
 - i. Luke 22:19-20 - *“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”*
 - ii. *Small Catechism* - *“For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.”*
4. **Lutheran Christianity is unique in confessing in the equal power and importance of both Preaching and Sacrament.**

Word and Sacrament go together. The Sacrament is the visible Word; the Word is the audible sacrament. The spoken and heard Word of itself is a thing of nature, sound waves that come from the voice box are received by the ear. And yet we hear, “In, with, and under” these sound waves, the Word of the eternal God himself.”- Hermann Sasse

5. _____ **Communion is the historic practice of the Christian Church.**
 - i. Scripture
 1. Acts 2:42 - *And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers*
 2. Acts 20:7 - *On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread...*
 - ii. Confessions
 1. Apology to Augsburg Confessions XXIV – *“Among us the Mass (Divine Service of Word and Sacrament) is celebrated every Lord’s day and on other festivals, when the sacrament is made available to those who wish to partake of it, after they have been examined and absolved.”*
6. **Holy Communion has historically been the _____ of Christian worship because there it is clearest that the Church lives by faith alone, by God’s powerful Word alone.**

“Through the Word and the sacraments as through instruments the Holy Spirit is given, who effects faith where and when it pleases God, in those who hear the Gospel” – Augsburg Confession V

Life Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. How did you first learn to think of the Lord's supper? How does it compare to today's message?

Into the Word

1. Sacramental theology is foreign to many Christians in America. Many Christians believe that faith in an external object (like baptism or the Lord's supper) is the opposite of faith in Jesus. However, God has often attached his promises and commands to external objects, which is what the word "sacrament" means: God's Word attached to an external thing. Read Genesis 2:16-17, Numbers 21:4-9, 2 Kings 5:1-14. How do these stories show a sacramental relationship between God's word, an external object, and faith?
2. As Lutherans we believe that faith in the sacrament is faith in Jesus. Read Luke 22:19-23. Why is this so?
3. As a Gospel gift, the frequency of communion can never be made into a law. What is it, then, that led the early church to desire it often, celebrating it every Lord's day? Read Romans 7:21-25, John 15:18-20, and 1 Peter 5:8-11.
4. Keeping the right ordering between faith and works, Christ's gifts (received in faith) and his call to be "doers of the word", is essential. Read John 15:1-11. What is the relationship between the two?

Application

1. Why does our sinful nature lead us to place our trust and hope in the many "doings" that we have been discussing as a church, rather than the gospel gifts? (Hint 1 Cor. 1:18-19)
2. As Lutherans we believe that the power of the sacrament depends on Jesus' words alone, and is received through faith alone, not on our feelings, preparations, or piety (1 Cor. 10:16-18). Why is this Good news?