

Reteaching/Study Guide from Lakeside's Online Worship  
Sunday, March 28, 2021, The Lord's Supper  
"In Remembrance of Me" – The Simple Majesty of the Lord's Supper

*"<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."*

*<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*<sup>20</sup> In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

*Luke 22:14-20 Christian Standard Bible*

The Lord's Supper is magnificently simple in its orchestration. Jesus initiated its celebration with his disciples in the upper room of a Jewish home in the solemn but celebratory context of the Passover. The elements were simply the fruit of the vine and unleavened bread with no extra ornamentation. The meaning of the Lord's Supper is majestically multifaceted. It summarizes God's work in the Old Testament and connects it with His work in Jesus that establishes the New Covenant and points toward its fulfillment at Christ's glorious return. No wonder Jesus commanded us to celebrate the Lord's Supper as an ordinance of His Church. ***As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we remember and experience the past, present, and future majesty of the salvation we have been given and the crucified and risen Lord who has made that salvation possible.***

***With a view toward the past,*** the broken bread and the poured-out fruit of the vine remind us that we are bought with a price. Christ's sacrifice as He died in our place for our sins has made possible the new life and forgiveness that has been lavished upon us. The excruciating cost of that sacrifice was real suffering on our behalf, highlighted by the terms "broken" and "poured out." As a result, ***we belong*** to Him. The Lord's Supper definitively is a time for us to remember how lost we were and to recall what Jesus has done for us and the new identity that He has given to us.

***With a view to the present,*** the Lord's Supper reminds us of Jesus' presence with us. Jesus is no more present with us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper than He is at any other time, but the Lord's Supper does provide a defined moment for us to be aware of His presence, to "be still and know that He is God," and to exercise the discipline to be fully present and focused upon Him in worship. It's also a time for us to honestly take stock of the genuineness of our "walk" with Jesus. Following Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11:27-31, as we eat the bread and drink from the cup, we need to examine ourselves and do spiritual business with God. Are we walking worthy of the calling we've received? In this way, the Lord's Supper is a reminder that ***we are called to become*** like Jesus in our character. Another part of the present aspect of the Lord's Supper is that it reminds us of our unity in Christ: *"because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf,"* (1 Corinthians 10:17). We stand upon the spiritual shoulders of those who've gone before us, we stand with brothers and sisters in Christ who support us and whom we are responsible for uplifting as well, and we are commission-bound to pass on our faith to the next generation. In all of this, we are the one Body of Christ, celebrating a common God-ordained spiritual meal together. What a powerful reminder of God's command for us to make *"every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."* <sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one*

*Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling—<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:3-5).*

***With a view to the future***, the Lord’s Supper is a reminder of the hope we have in Christ’s return. Jesus pointed toward His return as He prefaced the meal with the words *“from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes”* (Luke 22:18). Our hope is not of or in this world. Our hope is securely anchored in the certainty that Jesus is coming back. We look forward to and live toward a day when we will celebrate His glory forever in a place where *“God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away”* (Revelation 21:3-4). This hope reminds us that ***we are to engage*** courageously in the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples until Jesus returns.

**To reflect further about the Lord’s Supper, read the accounts of it in Mark 14:22-26, Matthew 26:26-30, and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.**

#### **Questions/Actions for Reflection/Discussion/Application**

As you celebrate the Lord’s Supper this morning, remember that you belong to Christ, that you are to become like Him, and that you are to engage in His mission.

You’re in My Prayers,

*Stacey*