

46-11-03-Until He Comes

Holy Communion, spiritual nurture, evangelism, Second Advent

1 Cor 11:26

Holy Communion proclaims the whole drama of human salvation.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

–**1 Cor 11:26**, *For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Jesus established this sacrament** as an **ongoing ritual** to **bless** and **comfort** us during our earthly pilgrimage. *Until He comes back*, this **Table** reminds us of the message we must share with the world. **HOM.idea**. Holy Communion is...*

### **I. A Proclamation of Our Soul's Hunger**

- A. “*whenever*” we “*eat this bread and drink this cup*,” we proclaim Christ's words in **John 6:53-54**, ... “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” (Just as we need to eat food from other forms of *physical* life, so the *soul* lives and grows by feeding upon *divine life in Christ*.)
- B. This Meal is paralleled in an OT meal (both meals “*proclaim*” or “*show forth*” our need for deliverance) [from an ancient Jewish writing: “*the passover... declared*” that the Lord passed over the houses of our fathers in Egypt; the bitter herbs “*showed forth*” that the Egyptians made the lives of our fathers bitter in Egypt; and the unleavened bread “*declared*” that they were redeemed; and all these things are called the “*declaration*” or “*showing forth*.”]
- C. This Meal is repetitive. *Divine life is not static*—it flows into us by grace then flows out of us in creative service (a sluggish pooling of spiritual energy eventually leaves us *self-satisfied ... stagnant*).

**TRANS:** Our soul is *hungry* and needs to feed upon “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” BUT Holy Communion does more than feed us. **It proclaims the whole drama of human salvation**. It starts by proclaiming our soul's spiritual hunger, then it becomes...

### **II. A Proclamation of Our Soul's Helper**

- A. (“*you proclaim the Lord's death*”) Who are the “you” in this verse? (That's the foremost question to ask in approaching this Table):
  1. ***Who are you?*** Someone who proclaims Who Jesus really is?

(Some “proclaim” only His *moral character*, His *mighty miracles*, His *marvelous teachings*, but **not** His *Cross* and *Resurrection*.)

2. **Who are you?** Someone who merely recites the Creed at this Table? (We must personally trust in the salvation it proclaims!)
  3. **Who are you?** Someone who prepares to come to this Table? [The original Book of Common Prayer said, “*Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort...*”]
- B. (“you proclaim the Lord’s death”) to whom do we proclaim His Cross?\*
1. \*To demonic enemies: Satan hates this dramatic replay of our faith in the Cross!– 1 Cor 2:8, None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (This makes Holy Communion a mighty weapon of spiritual warfare!)
  2. \*To lost humanity: A bread-eating world must see its need to feed on the bread of Heaven– John 6:51, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”
  3. \*To ourselves (who are often forgetful): Jesus said, “do this in remembrance of Me”) [hymn chorus: “Lest I forget Gethsemane, / Lest I forget Thine agony, / Lest I forget Thy love for me, / Lead me to Calvary.”]
- C. (“you proclaim the Lord’s death”) This Table proclaims the Cross as \*
1. \*the reason for the Incarnation. (God’s Son became one of us to redeem us and rise again.) [Christmas came so Easter could come!]
  2. \*the power behind the Gospel– 1 Cor 1:18, For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (Christ’s Cross defeated our sin and death!)
  3. \*our raison d’être [our reason of being] as His Bride, the Church:
    - a. Why does the Church exist? His Cross bought our ticket out of an impoverished way of life– 1 Pet 1:18-19, For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.
    - b. What is the Church’s mission? (To promote spiritual cuisine!)
      - (1) Helping sinners change their diet (*it’s killing them!*)
      - (2) Showing people where they can get a decent meal! (They’ve fed at Lucifer’s “*Greasy Spoon*” long enough!)
      - (3) Teaching people the habit of holy Table manners (they

need to embrace Christ and His Table as *a way of life!*)

**TRANS: Holy Communion proclaims the entire drama of human salvation.** Rom 3:24-25 (NASB), being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God **displayed publicly** as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to **demonstrate** His righteousness... Whenever we eat this Meal, we partner with God to **demonstrate** or to **display publicly** His strategy for human redemption. *But we also make...*

### III. A Proclamation of Our Soul’s Hope (Christ’s Return)

- A. “until he comes,” this Table proclaims our faith in a living Savior (we feed not only on Christ’s death but on His resurrected life, made available through His Cross)– John 6:51, (Jesus said) “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”
- B. “until he comes,” this Table proclaims to Satan his inability to stop us! [In some lands, our brothers & sisters risk their lives to faithfully meet and partake of this energizing Meal! They do it in spite of harsh persecution!]
- C. “until he comes,” this Table proclaims the victorious 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of our Savior to reign forever as King of Kings and Lord of Lords! (Then, we who faithfully ate at this Table will feast at another one– Mat 26:29, “I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew **with you in my Father’s kingdom.**”)

### CONCLUSION:

–This earthly Table proclaims our betrothal as the heavenly Bride of Christ. It foreshadows our place at His heavenly Table, celebrating His victory and enjoying our eternal marriage to Him– Rev 19:7-9, “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

–How do we proclaim to the world our anticipation of that Day? Jesus said to do it by eating this Bread and drinking this Cup, until He comes...

–[In the 1800s, Rev. Joseph R. Thompson finished a sermon on the ancient rite of Holy Communion with the following poetic lines. They summarize our unity with the whole Church, present and past, through our common celebration of this Holy Table: “*And thus that dark betrayal night \ With the last advent we unite \ By one bright chain of loving rite, \ Until he come!*”