

Communion Service

Sabbath, August 25, 2012

Ordinance of Humility

The pastor will lead the congregation in Responsive Reading #772 from the Hymnal.

MEN: Foot-washing will take place in the Primary Room

WOMEN: Foot-washing will take place in the Fellowship Hall

NOTE: Between the Ordinance of Humility and the Lord's Supper the deacons and elders should work together to slide the pulpit back up against the baptistery where the table usually is, and the table needs to be brought forward to the front of the platform from the back. Five chairs need to be placed around the table for the pastor and four elders. Also, empty row cards should be placed on every other row starting with the 2nd row from the front so that the congregation will not seat themselves in these rows. This will make it easier for the deacons to pass through to serve the emblems.

The Lord's Supper

The pastor, the four elders, the deaconesses, and deacons will walk up to the front. The four elders will take their seats behind the table up on the platform. The two deacons will sit in the very front two seats and two deaconesses on each side of the two deacons. The pastor will remain standing.

The pastor will lead the congregation in Responsive Reading #773 from the Hymnal.

The pastor will stand and read John 6:53-57.

“Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, 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. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.”

After the Scriptural reading the two deaconesses will come forward and remove the covering sheet from off the table and fold it before the congregation. Then the pastor will take his seat along with the two deaconesses.

The Unleavened Bread (The Body of Christ)

The elder on the pastor's right, farthest from him will read the following Scriptural reading or a Scriptural reading of their own choosing that is related to the unleavened bread:

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’...And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst....All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from

heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.’...‘Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.’...‘This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.’” (John 6:32-33, 35, 37-40, 47-51, 58)

Then the deacons and deaconesses will sing a song.

Following this reading the elders and the pastor will kneel. The elder on the pastor’s right, closest to him will say a prayer of blessing upon the unleavened bread incorporating the meaning of the bread from the Scripture reading.

After the prayer of blessing upon the bread, the pastor and elders will stand to their feet. The pastor will remove the top covering of the bread plates. The pastor and the elder on his right hand will break some of the large pieces of the bread on top with their fingers after the pastor has washed his hands in a bowl of water and drying them on a clean, white towel. Then the pastor and the elder on his left hand will break some of the large pieces of the bread on top with their fingers.

Then soft music about the crucifixion will play lightly in the back ground as the pastor will distribute the bread plates to the elders, starting with the elder on the right hand. The elders on the outside will step down a step or two and will receive the plates from the elders on the inside and then will pass the plates down to the deacons.

The deacons will then distribute the bread to the congregation. The deacon closest to the piano should not forget to serve the pianist.

Then the deacons will wait in the back until they have all gathered there after serving the two levels of the sanctuary. Then they will walk down the two aisles and pass the plates to the outside elders making sure to take some bread for themselves after the outside elders have received the plates.

Then the outside elders will pass the plates to the inside elders making sure to take some bread for themselves. Then the inside elders will pass the plates to the pastor who will return the plates to the table and cover them. The elder on the right of the pastor will serve him the bread before the plates return to the table.

Once the plates are all stack and covered elders and the pastor will be seated. Then the pastor will read the following Scriptural reading:

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’”

Then everyone together will eat the bread meditatively.

The Unfermented Wine (The Blood of Christ)

The elder on the pastor’s left, farthest from him will read the following Scriptural reading or a Scriptural reading of their own choosing that is related to the unfermented wine:

“Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, 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.” “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.” “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.” “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Now, “[t]herefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,” “...we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (John 6:53, 54; Hebrews 9:22, 13:12; Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 10:19; 1 John 1:7)

Then the deacons and deaconesses will sing a song.

Following this reading the elders and the pastor will kneel. The elder on the pastor’s left, closest to him will say a prayer of blessing upon the wine incorporating the meaning of the wine from the Scripture reading.

After the prayer of blessing upon the wine, the pastor and elders will stand to their feet. The pastor will remove the top covering of the wine plates after he has washed his hands in a bowl of water and drying them on a clean, white towel.

Then soft music about the crucifixion will play lightly in the back ground as the pastor will distribute the wine plates to the elders, starting with the elder on the left hand. The elders on the outside will step down a step or two and will receive the plates from the elders on the inside and then will pass the plates down to the deacons.

The deacons will then distribute the bread to the congregation. The deacon closest to the piano should not forget to serve the pianist.

Then the deacons will wait in the back until they have all gathered there after serving the two levels of the sanctuary. Then they will walk down the two aisles and pass the plates to the outside elders making sure to take some wine for themselves after the outside elders have received the plates.

Then the outside elders will pass the plates to the inside elders making sure to take some wine for themselves. Then the inside elders will pass the plates to the pastor who will return the plates to the table and cover them. The elder on the left of the pastor will serve him the wine before the plates return to the table.

Once the plates are all stacked and covered, the elders and the pastor will be seated. Then the pastor will read the following Scriptural reading:

“In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying,” “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” “This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” (1 Corinthians 11:25; Matthew 26:28, 29)

Then everyone together will drink the wine meditatively.

Collecting the Remains

When everyone is finished, the elders will pass down the wine plates to the deacons for the wine cups to be collected.

Once the wine plates are returned to the table and covered, the two deaconesses will unfold the covering sheet and place it once again over the emblems.

Conclusion

The pastor will read the following Scriptural reading:

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:26-28)

Then the pastor will say, “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” (Matthew 26:30) Likewise we will have the singing of the closing hymn at this time.”

The congregation will sing the closing hymn.

The pastor will speak about the love offering.

The pastor will give the benediction.

During the dismissal, the deacons, the deaconesses, the elders, and the pastor will exit the platform and walk down the aisle to the back to prepare to greet the congregation as they leave. Meanwhile, two deacons will be ready with two offering plates to collect the love offering for the Caring Account.