

## **YOU PROCLAIM CHRIST'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES (The Pulpit of the Laity)**

1 Corinthians 11:26 "As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes."

In receiving the Lord's Supper, you not only receive the blessings promised but your reception of it is also a proclamation, public announcement, declaration by you and your fellow communicants of the sacrificial death of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. Gregory Lockwood, in his commentary on 1 Corinthians states, "the Eucharist (Lord's Supper) is an acted sermon, an acted proclamation of the death which it commemorates ("do this in remembrance of Me.") By their whole action in gathering for the Sacrament, hearing the Words of Institution, and eating and drinking the sacramental elements, members of the Christian community proclaim 'Jesus Christ and Him crucified' for their sins. The Sacrament is truly 'the pulpit of the laity.'"

This is why you often hear pastors take special care as they invite the worshipping congregation to come forward to receive the Lord's Supper that they do so "if" they believe that they are receiving, in, with and under the bread and wine the true body and blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.

By the act of your reception of the Lord's Supper you are telling those who are receiving it with you that you believe Christ's words of institution. You are acknowledging that you are a member of "the body of Christ," namely, the universal church of true believers in Him. You proclaim you are one on the road that leads to eternal life in heaven.

"Until He comes. . ." (verse 26) points you to another blessing you receive in partaking of the Lord's Supper. Knowing your sins are forgiven through the shed blood of Jesus and your true faith in Him, with the words "Until He comes" reminds you of His promise that He will return to take you to be with Him in heaven. Having received, by God's grace, the true body and blood of Jesus at the communion table, and through the faith the Holy Spirit has given you in Jesus the forgiveness of your sins, you have His assurance that nothing can separate you from Him and His promise to return to take you to be with Him in paradise forever.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, strengthen me through the faith Your Spirit has given me in You and in fervent love toward my fellow brothers and sisters who share this same faith. In Your holy name. Amen.

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
Our Lord's body let us take together,  
Our Lord's body let us take together.

Come, let us drink for now the wine is poured,  
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

In His presence now we meet and rest,  
In His presence now we meet and rest.  
In the presence of our Lord we gather,  
In the presence of our Lord we gather.

Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word,  
Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.  
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,  
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.  
(LSB 626)