



Living the Liturgy: Equip 2018

TERRITORY OF THE PEOPLE

MAY 25-27, 2018



Living the Liturgy: The Work of God's People in the World

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And **what does the LORD require of you?**
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Living the Liturgy: The Work of God's People in the World

- Worthily magnify your holy name: **What God Requires**
- Delight in your will: **Loving Mercy**
- He won for you a holy people: **Acting Justly**
- Go forth in peace: **Walking Humbly**

Living the Liturgy: The Table

- Celebrating the Table is participatory – take, break, bless, and give
- The Spirit of the Table
 - The Lord's Supper - Remember the death of Christ
 - Communion – share in unity with others
 - Eucharist - Celebrate the resurrection of Christ with Thanksgiving

Living the Table

- At the Table, two worlds collide. Communion, like all sacraments, is where God's world and our world meet.
- Story – the story of God's covenant and salvation is told
- Symbol – the use of a meal powerfully illustrated in the story as well as the sign of bread and wine
- Action - the Spirit works in that moment of symbolic action and real change occurs

Communion Imagery in Scripture

- Joyful Thanksgiving (Acts 2:46-47)
- Commemoration (1 Cor 11:24)
- Fellowship (1 Cor 10:16-17)
- Sacrifice (Matt 26:28, 1 Cor 11:25)
- Christ's Presence (Matt 26:26, 28; 1 Cor 10:16)

- Action of the Holy Spirit
- Eschatological Event

Living the Table: Remembrance, Celebration, Reconciliation & Anticipation

We come to the Table not only to **remember** all of Christ – incarnation, life, death, resurrection and ascension.

We come to the Table to **celebrate** life and restoration made available to us in Christ.

We come to the Table to be **reconciled** to God and to one another

We come to the Table to **anticipate** the fulfillment of Christ's work in us and in the world.

Living the Table: Remembrance

- **Remembrance** *Anamnesis* “brings with it a sense of being actively present. Anamnesis speaks more of transforming than it does recalling; it speaks of bringing the past into the present.” (J.R. Wilkes, “Remembering,” 93)

Living the Table: Celebration

- **Celebration** “when the elements of bread and wine are taken in faith, the transforming and nourishing power of Christ for the salvation and the healing of the person is made available.” (Webber, *Ancient Future Faith*, 111)

Living Table: Reconciliation

- **Reconciliation** “This new body is a spiritual body, fashioned by the Spirit of love. It manifests itself in very concrete ways: in forgiveness, reconciliation, mutual support, outreach to people in need, solidarity with all who suffer, and an ever-increasing concern for justice and peace. Thus communion not only creates community, but communion always leads to mission.” (Nouwen, *With Burning Hearts*, 97)

Living Table: Anticipation

- **Anticipation** “when we come together at the Lord’s table now, our bodies both anticipate and enact God’s future reign. . . . Because our bodies are living out God’s future today, we cannot ignore the injustices and abuses of this world.” (Moore-Keish, ‘Eucharist/Eschatology’ in *A More Profound Alleluia*, 119)

Living the Table: What's at Stake?

- “If we participate in the Eucharist and then walk out of the church and oppress our neighbor, then surely we do open ourselves to God’s judgment, for we have not allowed ourselves to be changed by the encounter with the living Christ.” (Moore-Keish, *A More Profound Alleluia*, 124)

Living the Table: Hospitality & Welcome

► We invite others in

- “we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good. We are desperate to know the power of God’s love and justice more deeply. We are figuring out how this table fellowship rewrites our guest lists, reformulates our priorities and recasts our common life.” (Labberton, *Dangerous Act of Worship*, 122)

► We are sent out

- “having entered into communion with Jesus and created community with those who know that he is alive, we can now go and join the many lonely travelers and help them discover that they too have the gift of love to share.” (Nouwen, *With Burning Hearts*, 117)

Hospitality at the Table

Practical and Theological Challenges

- unwillingly absent
- (not so) subtle exclusion at the Table
- Intercommunion/open communion
- open table

Living Table: Mission & Justice

- ▶ “When Christians gather to share the Eucharist, they are reminded of their call to unity and their duty to challenge all forms of dehumanization, discrimination, hatred, petty nationalism and chauvinism. They are further drawn into a deeper reflection on how to use human resources for the benefit of all people.”
(Albertine, “The Eucharist: Key to Liberation”, 193)

Living the Table: Equality, Justice, & Reconciliation

- ▶ . . . what is the Body of Christ? It is the church, the people of God—all the people of God, especially the poor, the outcast, the hungry, and those who struggle for freedom and human dignity. Do we accept the responsibility for each other, for all the body of Christ, when we “eat this bread and drink this cup”? (McKenna, *Rites of Justice*, 112)

Living the Liturgy: Body Forming Power

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- “For Christians, the in which the Eucharist distributes food symbolically is in critical dialogue with all ways of distributing and sharing food and in the cultural symbols of meal keeping that may reinforce and interpret that distribution.” (Lathrop, *Holy People* , 165)

Living the Liturgy: Body Forming Power

- “I wonder whether the body forming power celebration of the Eucharist might stiffen us to new ways of resisting the spiritually coercive aspects of our culture. Only a clear and uncompromising teaching and practice of the Eucharist can restore Protestantism, at least, to a renewed sense of belonging to the body of Christ. I believe that a renewed practice of the Lord’s Supper is vital to a renewed Christian social and political identity.” (Vander Zee, *Christ, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper*, 228)