

# 2023\_12\_31 The Bread and Cup

The Bread and Cup

**1** Group

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner may eat it. But any slave a man has purchased may eat it, after you have circumcised him. A temporary resident or hired worker may not eat the Passover. It is to be eaten in one house. You may not take any of the meat outside the house, and you may not break any of its bones. The whole community of Israel must celebrate it.

**2**

If an alien resides among you and wants to observe the LORD's Passover, every male in his household must be circumcised, and then he may participate; he will become like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat it. The same law will apply to both the native and the alien who resides among you."

Exodus 12v43-49 (CSB)

**3**

When the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. Then he said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves.

**4**

For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 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." In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said,

**5**

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But look, the hand of the one betraying me is at the table with me. For the Son of Man will go away as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

Luke 22v14-20 (CSB)

**6**

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11v23-25 (CSB)

7

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, since all of us share the one bread.

1 Corinthians 10v16-17 (CSB)

8

We're not observers around the Communion table. We're participants. We do something. We ingest something. If the Eucharist involved just some words, then we'd be mere hearers, passively observing the drama of salvation at a distance. But bread and wine draw us in. This salvation becomes our salvation.

9

Objectively our salvation doesn't depend on participation in the Lord's Supper. It's not a magic meal. But the Lord's Supper is described as "communion" or "participation." Through the Communion meal, salvation becomes a subjective reality for us afresh. We enact our union with Christ, and in him find we're forgiven, justified, and adopted.

Tim Chester

10

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11v26 (CSB)

11

The church is by no means a voluntary association of religious individuals. The Christian's ultimate allegiance lies with Christ's church, not with the state or market or the nuclear family. The church's sacred symbols cannot be reduced to sources for cultivating pious emotion in the individual believer.

12

Rather, baptism and the Eucharist signify that we the church are citizens of God's kingdom, stakeholders in God's economy, and members of God's family. As the saying goes, we drink to remember while others drink to forget. As we eat the bread and drink the cup, let us remember who Christ is and what he has done for us.

Harper & Metzger

13