



TLC Study Guide for March 18, 2018

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Jesus gave us an extraordinary way to remember Him and to receive His very body and blood as the pledges of our forgiveness and salvation. The Lord's Supper is a way to connect with God and with each other in the presence of our saving Lord.

Getting Started:

1. What is the most 'traditional' meal that you have as a family that is the same each time? Christmas dinner? Thanksgiving? Easter?
2. When did you take your first Communion, and what did you think about it at the time?

In the Word: Read Matthew 26:17-20, 26-29

3. Jesus and His disciples were preparing to celebrate the Passover. What did the Passover meal commemorate? (see Exodus 12:1-14)
4. Why do you think Jesus chose bread and wine to be the elements of the meal by which all Christians would remember Him and commune with Him? (*no 'correct' answer – truly your own thoughts*)
5. Notice that in verse 29, Jesus hints that He will not be with the disciples visibly for a time. When will the disciples see Jesus eating and drinking with them again?

In the Word: Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

6. How does Paul refer to Holy Communion in verse 20?
7. What was the problem with the way the Corinthian Christians were celebrating Communion that caused Paul to scold them in this passage?

In the Word: Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

8. Paul had to remind the Corinthians about what the Lord's Supper was all about by reviewing the Words of Institution that Jesus Himself gave them. They are generally the same as we read above,

with some slight variations between Paul and Matthew. Compare the wording with the Matthew passage referenced above. (Note: In our liturgy, when we celebrate Communion, we use a composite of these passages, combining all the elements of Matthew, Luke, and Paul into one standard wording. For further study, look up the Words of Institution Mark 14:22-25 and Luke 22:19-20.)

Phrases in Matthew not 1 Corinthians:

Phrases in 1 Corinthians not in Matthew:

In the Word: Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-34

9. If someone eats the bread or drinks the cup in an unworthy manner, what are they sinning against specifically in verse 27?
10. What should Christians do before they eat of the bread and drink of the cup according to verse 28?
11. Notice that “judged” in this context does not mean condemnation from God (verse 32). Rather, it is spoken of as “discipline.” How does God “discipline” us today?

Pulling it all together

12. How do you prepare your heart and mind to take the Lord’s Supper in “a worthy manner?”
13. If the purpose of Holy Communion is, as Jesus says, “for the forgiveness of sins,” then we must first acknowledge our sin and desire the forgiveness Jesus grants us in the Sacrament. How do we do that during our worship services?
14. What do you find the most meaningful part of taking Holy Communion?

Prayer: Thank the Lord for the gift of Christ’s body and blood in Holy Communion, and ask that we might all rightly receive this gift in a worthy way, in faith and trust in Jesus’ words and promise. Ask the Lord to keep us focused on Christ as we enter in the final weeks of Lent and into Holy Week, remembering Jesus’ great sacrifice of love and eager to celebrate the victory feast of the Lamb.

Lent! This Wednesday (March 21) we have a Service of Healing. You can read more about this on our website under “resources” and in the handout in the church lobby. Our Lenten Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.

Next Week: Palm Sunday remembers Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with the celebrations of the crowd as they hailed the Messiah. Did they really understand what was about to happen? We may have our own ideas of Jesus too, but we must always look at Jesus in light of the cross and empty tomb.