

LORD'S SUPPER

TABLE TALKS

REMEMBERING JESUS:

“THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME”



Ernest Clevenger

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by

Ernest Clevenger, Jr.

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Introduction

After observing many congregations' policy, formats and traditions as related to the observance of the Lord's Supper for more than seventy-five years, these Table Talks have been prepared to encourage more young men to participate and to provide ideas for a wider remembrance of things Jesus did while on earth. The Lord's Supper is to be in memory of Jesus, which surely includes remembering more than just His death, burial and resurrection. Perhaps, if those who could participate in the administering of the Lord's Supper had brief, simply prepared scripts, they might be more inclined to take part in this area of worship.

How the talks are structured: Each presentation is brief, just one or two pages. Each can be individually printed for easy distribution. The talks are available in both MSWord and PDF. Both files can be edited as needed. Each talk consists of:

Scripture Reading: The NKJV is used in these talks, but the version of choice may be easily substituted.

Comments: Both observations about the Scripture and information about the incident described is given in a short commentary. Depending upon the individual using these talks and the congregation's format, the comments can be edited to either condense or expand them if desired.

Prayer for bread: The prayers supplied are suggestions. Many can be interchanged to fit a sermon topic or hymn sung. Most of the prayers are designed to stimulate the thoughts of the communicant as well as to express to the Father our corporate petitions.

Prayer for the fruit of the vine: The length of the prayers vary, most are declarations of faith, expressions of thanks, petitions for strength, or explanations of actions.

Prayer for offering: These are designed so that over a period of weeks God is thanked, glorified, and petitioned, and the audience is encouraged to liberality and informed of the purpose of the collection.

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Ernest Clevenger, Jr.

This do in remembrance of me

Remembering Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING: I Cor. 11:23-26. ²³ 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; ²⁴ 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.” ²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

COMMENTS: Because it is God’s plan to transform us to become like Jesus and Jesus commanded that we weekly remember him, we really need to concentrate on what Jesus is like to remember him in those many ways. In our lives and in our worship nothing could be more important.

There is more to remembering Jesus than his death, burial and resurrection. For the next several months our Lord’s Supper scripture readings and comments will be directed toward various aspects of remembering Jesus, helping us not only to obey his commands, but helping us to become like him.

A disciple in First Century Judaism, not only learned his rabbi’s sayings, he wanted — more than anything else — to become just like his rabbi. That doesn’t mean we necessarily become sandal wearing itinerant preachers wandering the hills of Palestine. Rather, it’s the personality and character of Jesus we are to emulate.

Too often we have a tendency to read the Gospels as rule books, looking for instructions — which is not entirely wrong but misses much of the point. If the authors only wanted us to learn some rules, they’d have written rule books. Instead, they wrote stories — true stories. And these stories reveal Jesus interacting with his family, his friends, his disciples, religious leaders, political leaders, and even God himself. Obviously, the inspired authors intend for us to get to know Jesus the person and remember his life as well as his death.

John's Gospel starts by introducing Jesus as the Cosmic Jesus, through whom God created the heavens and the earth, co-eternal with God the Father. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was with God." John 1:1.

As we now partake of the Lord's Supper let us remember Jesus as creator of heaven and earth.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father. We ask your blessings upon this bread, and upon us, as we eat it in remembrance of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Heavenly Father. As we partake of this fruit of the vine in memory of Jesus may our thoughts center around His creative powers, being thankful for Him making us, making our world, and providing all things needful. In Christ's name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, We worship You, a generous God, whose son Jesus was both a gift and great giver. As followers of Jesus we find our deepest joy in giving back to you, and that's why we give this offering cheerfully! In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Birth of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:6-19. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Comments: While Mary was still engaged to Joseph, she miraculously conceived through the Holy Spirit, as foretold to her by the angel. When Mary told Joseph about the expected child, he had every right to feel disgraced. He knew the child was not his own, and Mary's apparent unfaithfulness carried a grave social stigma. Joseph not only had the right to divorce Mary, under Jewish law she could be put to death by stoning.

Although Joseph's initial reaction was to break the engagement, the appropriate thing for a righteous man to do, he treated Mary with extreme kindness. He did not want to cause her further shame, so he decided to act quietly. But God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to verify Mary's story and reassure him that his marriage to her was

God's will. The angel explained that the child within Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit, that his name would be Jesus and that he was the Messiah, God with us.

As we partake of the Lord's Supper, we need to remember that it was God who sent forth His Son: Galatians 4:4: "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, we ask Your blessings upon us; and help us to remember it was You who sent Your Son, as we partake of this bread. In Christ's name, Amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Holy Father in heaven, as we partake of this fruit of the vine, which symbolizes the blood that was shed by Christ, we pray that we do so in a manner that is pleasing and acceptable to you, in the name of our blessed savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts and the giving of this offering all show our thankfulness to you for sending Your son, O God our Rock and our Redeemer. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Childhood of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:25-40. ²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;
³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation
³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,
³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel."

³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

³⁹ So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Comments: This account of Simon and Anna is one of the very few childhood incidences of Jesus found in scripture. The other most remembered story probably is about Jesus at age twelve in the temple. As Jesus commanded us to partake of His Supper in remembrance of Him, it is certainly appropriate to include things we have revealed about His childhood.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, we ask your blessings upon this bread we eat in memory of Your Son, Jesus the Christ. In His name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Heavenly Father, this fruit of the vine of which we are about to partake helps us remember the blood of Jesus shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Father in Heaven, we come before you again to thank you for all that you do for us for we know that everything we are and everything we have is because of you and your love for us. Now Father, we pray that each of us will carefully look within his, or her, own mind and heart and joyfully return to you a portion of that which you have so generously provided to us. We pray for this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Temptation of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-7. ¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

Comments: The accounts of Jesus' temptations all have three attempts: turn stones to bread, throw yourself off the temple wall, and fall down and worship Satan. Each attempt evokes a specific answer: man does not live on bread alone, don't test God, and worship the Lord God and Him only. In Hebrews 4:15 we are told "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin." While partaking of the Lord's Supper we can recall the temptations and the sinlessness of Jesus.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, bless this bread, the body of Christ, and us who partake in remembrance of Him. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in heaven, as we take this fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Jesus, help us remember how he showed us to avoid sin and provided forgiveness of sins. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Holy Father in heaven, we do not always know how much money we have, or how much we will need; in precarious economic times we are tempted to hoard our money for ourselves. As we make our offerings we show our faith that our God will supply all our needs. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Disciples of Jesus

Scripture Reading: John 1:43-51. ⁴³ The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Comments: Jesus calling His first disciples is a principle episode in His life. The first three gospels place the call on the Sea of Galilee, while the passage we read in John evidently starts a little earlier. The gathering of the disciples in John follows the many patterns of discipleship that continue in the New Testament, in that those who have received someone else's witness become witnesses to Jesus themselves. From these disciples some were chose to be apostles. It is from their eyewitness that we learn most about Jesus and His teachings.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, We thank You for those who walked with and saw the mighty works of Jesus and for the record they left to help us know more about Your Son, Jesus. As present day disciples of Jesus, let us eat this bread, symbol of His body, in remembrance of Him. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit. May the blessings of this fruit of the vine strengthen our faith and unify our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. Amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father. Now is the time when we have the opportunity to make our love for You and others visible through the giving of our offerings. We ask your blessings upon those who give now, and upon those who have already given in our online program. Let each give with cheerful hearts. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Early miracles of Jesus

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11. **2** On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. **3** And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." **4** Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." **5** His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do *it*." **6** Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. **7** Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. **8** And He said to them, "Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast." And they took *it*. **9** When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. **10** And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" **11** This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

Comments: The miracles of Jesus were supernatural deeds recorded in the gospels. The largest group of Jesus' miracles involved cures such as blindness, lepers, paralytics; both in men and women. The most astounding miracles included raising the dead and controlling nature. Not all the miraculous works of Jesus were recorded, for John 21:20 states, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." As we partake of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Him you might consider the account of your favorite miracle.

Prayer for bread. Eternal God, we ask you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who receive it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of your Son, in Whose name we pray..

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in Heaven, we ask you blessings upon us as we take this fruit of the vine. As we partake may we remember Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine. In His name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, You are the Giver of all good things, let your grace flow through us; a generous stream, unstoppable, refreshing, abundant. Now

in our offering we release these gifts into your river of love, flowing out to all the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Anointing of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:44-50. ⁴⁴ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵ You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷ Therefore I say to you, her sins, which *are* many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little." ⁴⁸ Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Comments: You may remember the account of a sinful woman entering the Pharisee Simon's house where Jesus was having a meal. She anointed Jesus' feet with fragrant oil from an alabaster flask. Simon challenged Jesus saying "if he were a prophet" He would know the woman was a sinner. Jesus answered the accusation with a story of two debtors and which would love the most. Simon answered correctly that "the one whom he forgave most." This unnamed woman has been remembered through the ages as one who anointed Jesus and whose sins were forgiven by Him. As we partake of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus, let us dwell upon His sacrifice to forgive us our sins.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, thank you sending Your Son to establish Your Kingdom, the church. We are grateful for the privilege of eating this bread in memory of Jesus, His anointing and His work. In His name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Eternal Father, we ask you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this fruit of the vine to the souls of all those who receive it, that they may drink in remembrance of the blood of your Son which was shed for them. Amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, our giving is a small gesture; pulling coins or bills out of our pockets, writing a check. What we give almost makes no sound as it drops into the offering plate. But it is the sound of our hearts opening, giving you a portion of what you have given us. It is our collective offering of love, our weekly

deposit in the account of your faithfulness. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus chooses twelve

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:12-16. ¹² Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵ Matthew and Thomas; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; ¹⁶ Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

Comments: Sometimes when we examine the life of Christ we see in scripture an event like the choosing of the twelve apostles and we miss other important facts revealed in the text. As we eat this Lord's Supper let us remember that Jesus while on earth had multitudes of disciples, and as Luke tells us, "from them" He chose twelve to be Apostles. Today we need to remember Jesus has thousands, even millions of disciples all over the world; believers who on this first day of the week are also partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, Bless those of us present here as we partake of this bread and remember all others around the world who have taken and will take of the bread on this first day of the week. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Heavenly Father, As we remember that Jesus chose twelve to be apostles, let us also recall that He also chooses all who assemble in faith and obedience around His table, partaking of the fruit of the vine. In His name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, You call us to be generous; not when all the bills are paid, not when we have everything we need, not just when we see our way clear. You call us to be generous now, and so we give freely, as we have received freely. In Jesus' name, amen.

Do In This Remembrance of Me

Following Jesus

Scripture Reading: John 1:35-43. 35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). 40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas”(which is translated, A Stone). 43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”

Comments: This scripture consensus the account of Jesus assembling men around Him who were first learners, disciples, and then were selected to be apostles. The sequence seems to be two disciples heard him, and they followed Jesus. One got his brother and brought him to Jesus and he followed Him. The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” The story is about the call to follow Jesus, a call that began with the first to be called — the apostles — but which applies to all believers. Later Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” What does it mean to “follow” Jesus? For the modern Christian, we obviously can’t literally walk behind Jesus as the apostles did, but we can still be students of his life and his teachings with the goal of becoming just like our Rabbi — not just to learn his teachings and obey his commands, but to share in his character.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, help us to follow Jesus by thinking of all that He did and said while on earth as we partake of this bread. In His name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of the vine. Heavenly Father, as followers of Jesus we want to do his bidding, and drink this fruit of the vine in remembrance of Him. In Jesus’ Name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Holy Father in heaven, by our offering today we tell your story: how you have dealt generously with us, how you have met our needs, how you

have heard our prayers, how your goodness is from everlasting to everlasting. Bless our offerings which are given in the name of Christ, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus, the I AM

Scripture Reading: John 8:48-58. ⁴⁸ Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰ And I do not seek My *own* glory; there is One who seeks and judges. ⁵¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.” ⁵² Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’ ⁵³ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. ⁵⁵ Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.” ⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

Comments: In this scripture Jesus acknowledges three great truths which we should keep in mind. First, Jesus honors God, His Father. Second, Jesus does not seek His own personal glory: He glorifies God. While partaking of the Lord’s Supper remembering Jesus’ words and deeds, we glorify Him. Third, when the Jews called Jesus a demon and tried to downplay both Jesus’ relationship with God the Father and Jesus’ role in creation and history, Jesus comely said, “Most assuredly... before Abraham was, I AM.” Jesus as the “I AM” is to be remembered as eternal, everlasting, always present, and participating with us in this Supper.

Prayer for bread. Almighty God, our Father, for Jesus, Your Son, we give thanks as we eat this bread, His body, in memory of His eternal existence. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Heavenly Father, as we drink of this fruit of the vine our thoughts are on Jesus, God in the flesh, and His everlasting presence. In His name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, we acknowledge you are the owner and we are the managers of what you entrust to us. Help us to live for you each day and to generously share the time, talents, treasures, and things you have given us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus, the Messiah

Scripture Reading: John 1:40-42. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

John 4:24-26. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *He*."

Comments: In John, chapter one, we are introduced to Jesus the Messiah. As it says in the translation, "Messiah" in Greek is "Christos", meaning Christ. As we partake of the Lord's Supper we are to remember that Jesus is the king long promised by the prophets to come and sit on David's throne to restore God's kingdom, the church, ending the Jews' exile and separation from God and bringing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In John, chapter 4, in the conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, after he stated "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth," the woman brought up the subject of the Messiah; to which Jesus acknowledged that He was the Messiah.

As we remember Jesus, by taking of this Supper, think of Jesus' disciples who were constantly finding others who believed in the Messiah and bringing them to Jesus. Something we must remember to also do.

Prayer for bread: Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the establishment of the church, the Kingdom of Christ. We ask your blessings upon his bread as we eat it in memory of our King, your Son, Jesus, the Christ; in His name, Amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine: Again, Heavenly Father, bless this fruit of the vine and our partaking of it. May we remember not only the death of Jesus, but also his life as the Messiah, the Christ, Your anointed. In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer for offering: Heavenly Father, as we give our offering this morning in support of the kingdom, the church. May we keep in mind your teaching that it is more blessed to give than to receive. In Jesus' name, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

A day of Jesus miracles

Scripture Reading: Luke 8:22-32. ²² Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.” And they launched out. ²³ But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling *with water*, and were in jeopardy. ²⁴ And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ But He said to them, “Where is your faith?”

And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, “Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!”

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!” ²⁹ For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

³⁰ Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

³² Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. ³³ Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

Comments: It would be very difficult to list all the miracles done by Jesus, for there were so many. In the scripture just read it indicates Jesus performing mighty works for almost a whole day. We read of the wind and waves obeying Jesus. We read of the demon possessed man being healed. And, if we had continued reading we would have included the accounts of the girl restored to life and of a woman being healed.

As we partake of the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Him, we certainly will have to remember His great healing power and the demonstrations of it.

Prayer for bread. Creator of all that has life, look upon us who have assembled here. Bless this bread, a symbol of Christ's body, offered for each one of us. Keep us reminded that to break bread together is to share in each other's blessings. We offer You our thanks for this bread in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Holy Father, As each one of us drinks of this cup may we recall how powerful is our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, as we open our eyes to Jesus' healing powers, help us to open our eyes to the needy at our doorstep and those needing encouragement and healing in our community and world. Help us to share our time, and to share our treasure with them through this offering. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus, the Rabbi

Scripture Reading: John 1:48-50. ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

Comments: Early in the book of John we are introduced to Jesus the rabbi, the teacher who calls disciples to teach them. In Judaism, a rabbi is a teacher of Torah, instruction in the Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. A rabbi was a learned man who was given great honor. You may remember the account in John, chapter three, of Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night, and said to him “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” As we partake of the Lord’s Supper let us remember Jesus as the Master Teacher, the Divine Instructor, the Principle Rabbi.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, We partake of this bread, symbol of the body of Christ, in memory of his Rabbinical teaching and sacrifice on the cross. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Holy Father, bless this cup as we partake. May our thoughts center upon Jesus and what He has taught us through His Word. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Lord God. You have taught us giving is for all ages. As parents may we raise our children to give. As the Master Teacher, Jesus, taught us, may we teach our children to give of themselves and of the resources you have so graciously provided. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

A day of Jesus teaching

Scripture Reading: John 8:4-11. ⁴ They said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. ⁵ Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” ⁶ This they said, testing Him, that they might have *something* of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His* finger, as though He did not hear. ⁷ So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” ⁸ And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ Then those who heard *it*, being convicted by *their* conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest *even* to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. ¹⁰ When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Comments: Many times Jesus spent his day with His disciples teaching, so, in scripture He is often called “teacher.” Most of the eighth chapter of the gospel of John is devoted to Jesus teaching, sometimes one person, sometimes a group of people, but always the disciples who were following Him. In parallel passages in Matthew and Mark, we are reminded of Jesus’ teaching in parables. As we eat the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus think of the parables of the Sower, the Wheat and Tares, the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Leaven.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, As we partake of this memorial bread our minds go back to the great lessons taught by Jesus in parables and the most sublimed lesson of His sacrifice on the cross for our sins. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in Heaven, we ask your blessings upon this cup, a communion of the blood of Christ. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Almighty and gracious Father, as Jesus taught his followers to be generous show us how to be more like Him in our giving. Bless us as we lay by a portion of what you have given us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus the bread of Life

Scripture Reading: John 6:22-34. ²² On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone— ²³ however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— ²⁴ when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” ²⁸ Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” ³⁰ Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² 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. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

Comments: Under the Law of Moses God had Moses to prepare a table in the tabernacle on which twelve loaves, called the bread of the Presence, were to be kept and eaten only by the priests. These loaves were to remind physical Israel of God’s gracious provision for all their needs. Jesus explains, in the passage we just read, that the bread is Christ Jesus Himself. When we partake of the bread we have a close communion with Jesus.

Jesus’ audience misunderstood and wanted a regular meal, which Jesus called “food that perishes.” We now, as spiritual Israel, partake of the bread remembering that the phrase “bread of God” was another name for the bread of the Presence (Lev. 21:6, 8); so Jesus is saying in today’s passage that He is the fulfillment of the bread of the Presence under the old covenant. Christ is far better than the former bread, for anyone, priest or not, can dine on Him by faith; that is, all who are willing may trust in

Him for eternal sustenance and receive life that can never be taken away. And Jesus will never cast out any who truly put their faith in Him

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, we believe the bread that sustains our life is Christ. He is the food that assures our salvation. His words are comforting when he said, "If anyone eats of this bread of mine, they shall live forever,." Therefore we eat of this blessed bread broken for all. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Heavenly Father, in the words of the inspired apostle Paul, "the cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?" We ask that we may partake in a worthy manner. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Holy Father, everything on earth is yours. We have nothing that can make you richer, for it all comes from you in the first place. But what we have, we bring: the acknowledgement that we live thanks to You, and that without You we have nothing and can do nothing. You sent your Son to claim what ought never to have been denied You; and He paid the world's ransom giving His life. What we give at this time is so small in comparison. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus the son of man

Scripture Readings: Mathew 18:10-11. ¹⁰ “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ¹¹ For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

Luke 22:47-48. ⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

John 5:26-28. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

Luke 22:68-70. ⁶⁸ And if I also ask *you*, you will by no means answer Me or let *Me* go. ⁶⁹ Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.” ⁷⁰ Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” So He said to them, “You *rightly* say that I am.”

Comments: We do not often remember Jesus as “the Son of Man.” The phrase appears many times in both the Old and New Testaments. In the First Century the phrase meant essentially “human,” due to such passages as – “God is not man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should repent. Has he said, and will He not do it? Or has he spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Num 23:19 NKJV)

One of the most remembered passages illustrating humanity is Psalms 8:3-4, “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? When Jesus is referred to as “Son of Man,” one meaning is that he is human.

“Son of man” is a term Jesus chose for himself, probably in part for its ambiguity and for his humility. If he is the “son of man,” he is a human. Indeed, the Old Testament often uses “son of man” to refer to humans in contrast to God himself. It’s a term of humility before God — emphasizing the contrast.

The name “Son of Man” is wonderfully ambiguous, a way to claim to be the Messiah without being crucified too soon — but also a way to express the thought that he is truly human while also truly God. That is, that Jesus could be humble, finite, tempted, and suffer and yet still be truly God. As we partake of the bread in remembrance of Jesus let us think of Jesus as humble and interested in the little things that matter to mere humans, just as God is interested in us.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Your son into the world to be a man and show us the way back to You. Bless this bread, symbol of his body as we partake in memory of his humanity and divinity. In Jesus’ name. amen

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in Heaven, Our Savior has shown us both his divine and his human side. The greatest demonstration being His death on the cross, which we remember by the taking of this cup. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Give us, Lord, a heart that gladly gives. Even as Christ gave all for us, so may we give our all to You. May we not give out of our abundance, but out of our poverty. In Christ, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus the Mediator

Scripture Reading: Heb. 12:23-25. 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. 25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,

1 Timothy 2:1-6. ¹Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Comments. Jesus, as Mediator, is the crowning excellence of the New Covenant in contrast to the Old Covenant. The new covenant, the Gospel, is now in force, and will be to the end of the world; and Jesus, the Son of God, the brightness of the Father's glory, the Maker and Preserver of all things, the Savior and the Judge of all men, is its mediator.

A mediator is one who acts as an intermediary, or go-between to work with opposing sides in order to bring about a settlement. A mediator attempts to influence a disagreement between two parties with the goal of resolving a dispute. There is only one Mediator between mankind and God and that is Jesus Christ. As we partake of the Lord's Supper we need to remember that It is because of the great Mediator that we are able to stand before God clothed in the righteousness of Christ Himself because on the cross He exchanged our sin for His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Prayer for the bread: Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son to be our go-between us and You. We eat this bread, symbol of His body, in His memory. In Jesus name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of the vine: Father in heaven, may our thoughts center upon the many purposes of Jesus' sacrifice and His role as mediator as we partake of this cup. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering: O God, the fountain of all good, at this time we bring to You our gifts, according as You have prospered us. Enable us with our earthly things to give You the love of our hearts and the service of our lives. Let Your favor, which is life, and Your loving-kindness, which is better than life, be upon us now and always. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus the Word

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14. ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. ⁹That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Comments: Through His spoken Word, God created the earth and everything in it, put the heaven into place, and formed man. We need to remember that His Word became flesh, and Jesus (God in the flesh) was born. His Word is the most powerful thing on earth and in heaven. It is the absolute and infallible truth. His Word never changes, and He never breaks His Word.

Because the Word became flesh, it says in Hebrews 7:25 that Jesus is “able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing that he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” If, as we partake of the Supper in remembrance of Jesus, we look at Jesus primarily as someone who owes us something rather than the One to whom we owe everything, we will not see his glory.

The glory of God in Christ is his gracious disposition to us without compromising his truthfulness or his faithfulness to himself. And this gracious disposition is high; that is why he uses the word *full* to modify *glory*. The glory of the Son of God is full of graciousness toward us sinners without compromising God’s truth.

Prayer for bread: Father, we are told the Word became flesh and we are told this bread is the body of Christ. May we discern the magnitude of these declarations as we eat this bread. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine: Heavenly Father, we show our desire to come to You and Your Son through the taking of this fruit of the vine in His memory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has not spared Your own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, and Who, with Him has freely given us all things; receive these offerings which we bring and dedicate to You, and enable us with all our gifts so to yield ourselves to You that with body, soul, and spirit we may truly and freely serve You, and in Your service find our deepest joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus the Prophet

Scripture: John 6:8-14. ⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹ "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" ¹⁰ Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." ¹³ Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Comments: In Matthew 21:11 it says, "And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee." Every expression of the people acknowledged Jesus as a prophet of God, yet five days later some changed their hosannas for "crucify him!" It appears that the common people accepted Jesus, it was the inhabitants of Jerusalem who rejected His as God's prophet. The people around Galilee, as well as the disciples, regarded Jesus as the prophet named by Moses in Deut. 18.18.

Prayer for bread: Heavenly Father, we acknowledge Jesus as your prophet, sent to us to preach salvation. May we partake of this bread in His memory and with thankfulness for His coming. In Jesus name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of the vine: Heavenly Father, help us to partake of this fruit of the vine in a worthy manner and in memory of Your Son, Jesus, In His name, amen.

Prayer for offering: O Lord our God, the king of all the earth, accept of Your infinite goodness the offerings of Your people, which in obedience to Your commandment and in honor of Your name, we give and dedicate to You; and grant unto us that this offering being devoted to Your service, may be used for Your glory. Through Our Prophet, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus feeds thousands

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:30-46. ⁵ When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour *is* late. ³⁶ Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat." ³⁷ But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?" ³⁸ But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. ⁴¹ And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave *them* to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among *them* all. ⁴² So they all ate and were filled. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

Comments: We probably remember best the miracle of feeding 5,000, but not forgetting later the feeding of 4,000. The miracle is also remembered as "the miracle of the loaves and fishes." The crowds followed Jesus on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." After much discussion as to what to do and how to do it, Jesus took the equivalent of a boys' lunch and multiplied it more than 5,000 times, for women and children also ate. Truly, an event by which to remember Jesus.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, we come to this table to partake of physical bread, the kind multiplied by Jesus, but sanctified now as his body which we eat in communion with Him. In Jesus name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in heaven, this fruit of the vine, this blood of the new covenant, for which we ask your blessings as we partake, in Jesus name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Loving God, we come to You in thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all we have is a gift from You. In faith and love, help us to do Your will. We offer to You this day all the facets of our lives, whether it be at home, at work, or at school – to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give us the wisdom and insight to understand Your will for us and the fervor to carry out our good intentions.

Help us to reach out to others as You, our God, have reached out to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus the Son of God

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-20. ¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

Comments: Jesus called Himself the "Son of God" throughout the gospels. The disciples and apostles identified Jesus as the "Son of God". Jesus states that He was with God before the world began. Paul calls Jesus "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." In the book of Hebrews it says that God "has spoken to us by His Son whom He appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word." The Apostle John tells us that Jesus is God's only begotten Son." Not the only Son, but the only begotten Son, because we are all sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus, thus we are adopted sons of God.

From the Scriptures we see that in Christ, the invisible God is revealed. Jesus was with the Father before the world began. Christ, as God the Son, is the Creator of all things. God in all His fullness dwelt in Christ, reconciling the world. We see that Christ, as the Son of God - God's representation, is God manifest and revealed to the world. Angels, prophets, and things can reveal to us something about God. But God alone can reveal God. It takes God to reveal Himself to mankind. What better way for the eternal revealer to be revealed to mankind on earth than by clothing His self-expression in human form? When we partake of the Lord's Supper in memory of Jesus we also memorialize God.

Prayer for bread: Holy Father, help us to recall the holy relationship between You and Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, as we partake of this bread, His body. In Christ's name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of the vine: Heavenly Father, now bless this fruit of the vine and us as we drink it in memory of Jesus as Your only begotten Son. In His name, amen.

Prayer for offering: Teach us, O God, how to glorify You and Your Son, Jesus, in our offerings, and how to enrich the life of the world with the overflow of goodness from the cup of blessing which You have filled so bountifully. And this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

This Do In Remembrance of Me

Jesus the Stone of Stumbling and Rock of Offense

Scripture: Romans 9:22-33. ²² *What* if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? ²⁵ As He says also in Hosea:

“I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved. ²⁶ And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You *are* not My people, There they shall be called sons of the living God.’”

²⁷ Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. ²⁸ For He will finish the work and cut *it* short in righteousness, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.”

²⁹ And as Isaiah said before: “Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah.”

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did* not seek *it* by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. ³³ As it is written:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

Comments: In remembering Jesus we do not often recall He was known as a stumbling stone and a rock of offense. In addition to the passage just read, Jesus is referred to with this phrase in 1 Peter 2:8, quoting Isaiah 8:14 and 28:16. Two examples of people colliding with the rock of offense might be Nicodemus and the Syro-Phoenician woman. Anyone not accepting the truth as defined by the Bible encounters this stumbling stone and offensive rock.

Jesus indicated that "political correctness" is from the Devil since it keeps the people that God so desperately loves in bondage. Political correctness is the opposite of truth and only the truth can make a man free.

Political correctness seeks never to offend, while truth ALWAYS carries with it the potential for offense. As we eat His Supper we should remember Jesus offended nearly everybody: his family, His friends, His hometown, even the religious leaders. Anyone who would not believe in Him and do His will.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, as we prepare to eat of this unleavened bread in Memory of Jesus, the Christ, we pray for those who fail to understand Him and refuse to do His will. May we partake in a worthy manner, in Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of the vine. Heavenly Father, we are thankful for Jesus, Your Son, and His sacrifice on the cross for our sins. May we ever be mindful of the giving of Your Only begotten son for the sins of the world. In Christ name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us ever thankful for Your providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of Your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.²

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus acknowledged by Peter

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:18-21. ⁸ And it happened, as He was alone praying, *that* His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” ¹⁹ So they answered and said, “John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again.” ²⁰ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God.”

Comments: Every word here is emphatic - a most concise, and yet comprehensive, confession of faith. In Matthew the answer is recorded as, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **The Christ**, or Messiah, points out his divinity, and shows his office; **the Son** - designates his person: on this account it is that both are joined together so frequently in the new covenant. **Of the living God** is literally, of God the Living One. The word “Living” – is a character applied to the Supreme Being, not only to distinguish him from the dead idols of paganism, but also to point him out as the source of life, present, spiritual, and eternal.

Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God is a short, but a very full confession of faith which we should remember as we partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine in the Lord’s Supper.

Prayer for bread. Holy Father, as Peter and others acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God we also give acknowledgement in the eating of this bread in memory of Christ, and in His name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Living God, for this cup we give You thanks and for the sacrifice of Christ it represents we are grateful to have a part. In Jesus name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father. Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, was rich. Yet for our sakes, He became poor, so that through His poverty we might become rich. Accept this collection as a token of gratitude for all You, and He, have done. In Jesus’ name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus foretells his death and resurrection

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31-9:1. ³¹ And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." ³⁴ When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

9 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Comments: When Jesus said to eat His Supper in remembrance of Him we Christians often remember only his death. In the passage we just read Jesus foretells his death and also foretells his resurrection. By stopping at the end of Mark chapter 8 we miss an important statement of Jesus; He said some of the people hearing his prediction would not die until the kingdom of God, the church, had been established. That meant the beginning of the church, or kingdom of God, happened soon after the crucifixion of Jesus. Those that think the kingdom is yet to be established miss this important point. When Jesus said for us to use His Supper to remember Him, He doubtless intended for us to include recalling facts He revealed concerning the establishment of the church, His kingdom of earth. To put it another way, if the kingdom, the church, has not been established there has to be some very old people somewhere on this earth.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Jesus to establish the church, Your spiritual kingdom on earth. We ask Your blessings upon this bread which represents the body of Christ, crucified for our sins and for the beginning of the church. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in heaven, as we partake of this fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ shed for our forgiveness, may we keep in memory the predictions made by Jesus prior to His death. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Lord God, it's so easy for us to hold on tightly to the money we earn. Help us to realize that You alone gave us the ability to do our jobs and to earn what we do. Help us to be open-handed in our giving to show our thanks to you. Bless these gifts, in Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus the Good Shepherd

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-18. ¹“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹²But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. ¹⁵As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

¹⁷“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Comments: The Good Shepherd is a periscope found in the passage we just read. “Periscope” in Greek means “a cutting out”, and is used in rhetoric as a set of verses forming one coherent unit, or thought. Jesus uses this literary methodology to depict Himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep; the sheep being his followers. The imagery of the Good Shepherd is revisited throughout the four Gospels in references to Jesus not letting Himself lose any of his sheep. Most Bible

scholars consider this story as an allegory or metaphor, rather than a parable. It shows just how much Jesus cares for members of the church.

The surrounding context of the allegorical story shows that the people around Jesus realized that he was asserting that he was God; that Jesus was asserting his own divinity.

Prayer for bread. Almighty God, our Father, we acknowledge our belief that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is Your Son and that He watches over us. May we partake of this bread, the symbol of His body, remembering His sacrifice for us and His care over us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Heavenly Father, We ask Your blessings upon us as we partake of this cup, given as a memorial of Jesus' promises to watch over us as He is with us always. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Lord God, we thank You that You have counted us as faithful stewards of the financial resources with which You have supplied us. By faith we trust that as we take this offering and sow into the good soil of your Kingdom work here on earth that You will bless and multiply our offerings while continuing to meet us at the point of our needs, in the name of the Lord Jesus, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus explains the cost of discipleship

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:25-33. ²⁵ Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*—²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Comments: Jesus makes it plain that being His disciple is costly. When Jesus said, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” He was saying salvation is free. Salvation cost you nothing, but discipleship will cost you everything. The cost of discipleship includes the many conditions laid down by Jesus for becoming a disciple. As it cost Jesus through suffering and death to follow the Father’s will, which we remember as we partake of the Lord’s Supper in his memory, it also cost us; some of the ways involves time for prayer, Bible study, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, receiving strangers, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting prisoners, contributing to the work of the church, and spreading the gospel.

Prayer for bread. God of mercy and compassion, as we partake of this bread in memory of our Savior surround us with your love and fill us with your grace to be stronger disciples of Your Son. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in heaven, we thank for sending Jesus to provide salvation to us. We take this fruit of the vine in His memory and ask that we be enabled to be more faithful disciples of His. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly and Earthly God, we thank You for the leaders in our lives. We thank You for those who came before us who built our buildings, for those who started our mission work, and for those who have made our ways clear. Help us to be the same sort of stewards to those who will follow us. Please use our gifts to help

make straight the path for others in this world. Thank you for the privilege of serving you with our lives. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus blesses little children

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:13-16. ¹³ Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." ¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

Comments: Today's imagery in this account by Mark usually has Jesus sitting with small children and this particular scene, repeated in both Matthew and Luke, is a primary reason why many Christians feel that Jesus has a special relationship with children because of their innocence and their willingness to trust. However, it is possible that Jesus' words are meant to further encourage his followers to be receptive to powerlessness rather than seeking power; something consistent with earlier passages.

While children are the focus of these passages, they are the only people in the story that do and say nothing themselves. They are brought by their parents, blocked by the disciples, called and welcomed by Jesus. They are simply obedient and humble participants. Jesus said that of all the people involved, we should be like them.

We should go where the Father wills, trusting in his love, blessing, and wisdom. Jesus said that without this attitude it is impossible to receive the kingdom. We cannot decide who will enter the kingdom. We cannot decide what will happen in the kingdom. We are not in charge. God is. We are to accept Christ's rule as king, obey the laws of the kingdom and honor our fellow-citizens

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, As we remember Jesus by taking of this bread, may we also recall His words that "except you become as a little child you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." Help us to be more child-like. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Holy Father, we pray You would help us partake of this fruit of the vine in a worthy manner, in memory of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, we give You thanks for the many children we have in this congregation. We ask your blessings upon them. We pray they may be

taught by word and example to believe in You and follow Jesus and to support Your work through cheerful giving. Accept now our offering in the name of Jesus. Amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus and his authority

Scripture Reading: Luke 20:1-8. Now it happened on one of those days, as He taught the people in the temple and preached the gospel, *that* the chief priests and the scribes, together with the elders, confronted *Him*² and spoke to Him, saying, “Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things? Or who is he who gave You this authority?”³ But He answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, and answer Me: ⁴The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men?”⁵ And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’⁶ But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet.”⁷ So they answered that they did not know where it was from.⁸ And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

Comments: Prior to this scripture, Jesus had explained to his disciples the meaning behind his cursing of the fig tree and cleansing of the Temple. The entire group returns a third time to Jerusalem where they are met at the Temple by the highest officials there. By this time these officials have decided to confront Jesus and challenge the basis on which He has been saying and doing so many “subversive” things. Instead of answering them directly Jesus replies with a question of His own; one they cannot afford to answer without condemning themselves. It may seem strange for Jesus to tell these leaders He will not reveal the source of His authority, when he would later say, “All authority is given unto me both in heaven and on earth.” God the Father has all power and He gave that power to Jesus to rule, to teach, to heal, for forgive, to judge and much more.

Prayer for bread. Father in heaven, may we worthily partake of this bread in memory of Jesus, our Savior, who has all authority given by You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Holy Father, by the authority of Christ we take of this cup in His memory. We acknowledge Him as our Savior and King and give unto Him all glory and honor. In His name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, we acknowledge you are the owner and we are only the managers of what You have entrusted to us. Help us to live for You each day and to generously share the time, talents, treasures, and things You have

given us. As it pleases You, use the offering we give today to enlarge Your work. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus the ultimate High Priest

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:13-15. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account. ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

Hebrews 10: 19-25. ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Comments: One of the things on which the Jews most valued their religion, was the fact that it had such a minister of religion as their high priest - the most elevated functionary of that dispensation. It was then important to show that Christianity was not inferior to the Jewish religion in this respect, and that the High Priest of the Christian profession was superior in every way; He enter heaven for us, He is able to understand our weaknesses, He sacrificed Himself once for everyone. Because we have Christ as our high priest there are actions we should follow; these are given in the text we just read. As we partake of the Lord's Supper let us look to Jesus, who as our high priests, is able to give us assistance in living the Christian life.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, bless this bread of the new covenant and as we partake help us to remember the role of Jesus as our high priests. In His name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of the vine. Heavenly Father, may we drink of this cup, symbol of the blood of our high priests shed for the forgiveness of our sins, in a worthy manner remembering Jesus as our high priests. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, as the worshippers at the temple of old gave their tenth to support the Mosaic Priesthood, may we contribute our offering to support the work of Jesus, our high priests. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus celebrates the Passover feast

Scripture Reading: Mathew 26:17-30. ¹⁷ Now on the first *day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread* the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'"" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰ When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. ²¹ Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." ²² And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" ²³ He answered and said, "He who dipped *his* hand with Me in the dish will betray Me." ²⁴ The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." ²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ 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." ³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Comments: The Passover Feast is one of those amazing prophetic pictures that Christ has fulfilled. The apostle Paul calls these Old Testament events "shadows of things to come." And explains that "the reality, the substance, the solid fact of what is foreshadowed, the body of it, belongs to Christ" (Colossians 2:17). Just as the Passover was the first feast the people of Israel were commanded to observe; so is Christ's atoning death on the cross the first truth we must believe if we are to be free from slavery to sin, saved from the judgment it deserves and recipients of eternal life. It is not enough to just know and understand that Christ has fulfilled all these things; we must believe in our hearts that Christ is truly our Passover Lamb.

Prayer for bread. Holy Father in heaven, we believe that Jesus is our Passover Lamb and eat this unleavened bread in memory of His atoning sacrifice on the cross. In Christ's name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Heavenly Father, as Jesus said He would drink of the fruit of the vine in Your kingdom, we drink it with Him in His memory. In Jesus name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, help us learn and follow your Word on finances and generosity and to trust you to guide us and provide for us all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus' prayer for believers

Scripture Reading: John 17:20-26. ²⁰“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²²And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Comments: In the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel of John there are three prayers Jesus prays. Prior to the scripture we have just read, Jesus had prayed first for Himself; a beautiful prayer in which he tells the Father, “I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”

Jesus' second prayer, beginning with verse 6, is a powerful prayer for His Disciples which includes the petition, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

The most amazing prayer is the third one, the one we read; and it is a prayer for you and for me. It is difficult to believe that Jesus, the Son of God, prayed for us before we were born. His prayer has two main parts: He prayed that we all might be one in Him and in God the Father; and he prayed that we all might be with Him to see His glory. In these prayers Jesus gave us wonderful things by which to remember Him as we partake of His Supper.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, we do believe and claim the blessings of Your Son's prayer for us. We partake of this unleavened loaf in the belief that Jesus gave Himself for us and for the forgiveness of our sins. In Christ's name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Holy Father, bless this fruit of the vine and us as we take it in remembrance of Jesus. In Christ's name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, help us to live for you each day and each week by giving you first place in our calendar and finances. Accept now our offering for the furtherance of the work of the church. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

The trials of Jesus

Scripture Reading: John 18: 12-14. Then the detachment of *troops* and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. ¹³ And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

John 18:28. ²⁸ Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. ²⁹ Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

John 18:33-38. ³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

Comments: These three passages tell of the different trials of Jesus: before Annas, a high priest; before Caiaphas, the high priest; and before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Prefect of Judaea. Although Pilate found Jesus not guilty He sentenced Him to die on the cross to appease the Jews. Jesus acknowledges He is a spiritual king, and the reason why He came to earth. One of the principal reasons why we weekly partake of the Lord's Supper is to do so in honor and in memory of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your only begotten Son to bring us the truth and salvation. We partake of this bread in memory of His life, teachings, death, resurrection and appearance. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in heaven, bless this cup as we partake in memory of Jesus. In His name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, help us to overcome our fears, our past failures, and to become faithful givers to Your work. Please let us see and experience Your provisions in our life. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

The crucifixion of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:33-41. ³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” ³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, “Look, He is calling for Elijah!”³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.” ³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. ³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” ⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Comments: The crucifixion of Jesus is described in all four gospels. The crucifixion method was adopted by the Romans as a means of torture and execution. Death was usually prolonged and resulted from shock, exposure, exhaustion, secondary infection, or suffocation. Some think Jesus died quickly of a broken heart. Jesus’ death was accompanied by darkness, an earthquake and the splitting of the veil of the temple. As Christians we believe Jesus went to the cross voluntarily as a knowing and willing sacrifice.

Prayer for bread. Father in heaven, we thank You for sending Jesus and for His sacrifice for our sins. We partake of this memorial bread in His name. Amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Holy Father, we too truly believe Jesus was the Son of God and pray Your blessings upon this cup as we partake in memory of His willingness to go to the cross for our salvation. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, as Jesus gave His all on the cross for our salvation, help us to give liberally and generously to support the work of the church He established. In Jesus’ name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

The burial of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:42-47. ⁴² Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses observed where He was laid.

Comments: Shortly after the death of Jesus Joseph of Arimathea asked if he could entomb Jesus. He had a newly prepared tomb he wanted to donate for the burial. John records that Joseph was assisted in the burial process by Nicodemus, who brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes and included these spices in the burial cloth according to Jewish customs. Matthew mentions they "made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard." The apostle Paul in Romans says, "do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." A part of remembering Christ as we partake of the Lord's Supper would include our participation in the efficacy of His death through baptism.

Prayer for bread. Father in heaven, we are grateful for the facts of Jesus' crucifixion and burial and Your provision for us to undergo the likeness of His burial when added to His church. As we eat this memorial bread, each of our memories of Jesus may include a brief, or long, time with Him in the church. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Holy Father, we celebrate our newness of life in Christ by taking this fruit of the vine in memory of Him. May we partake in a worthy manner. We pray in the name of Jesus, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, accept from us our offering from what you have placed in our hands. Help our elders and us to use it for your glory for all to see. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

The resurrection of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10. Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*. ⁵ But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” ⁸ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. ⁹ And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Comments: Probably no aspect of the Life of Christ is as controversial as His resurrection. Most people’s first response is, “No way, that’s impossible.” The inspired writers of the New Testament were acutely aware of the high-stakes nature of this doctrine. They knew the resurrection of Jesus was the “make it, or break it” pivotal point of the Christian religion. If it did not happen, then nothing else is true. Paul put it this way in 1 Corinthians 15, “¹² Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. ¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. ¹⁶ For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, we do believe Jesus died, was buried and was raised from the dead and reigns on Your throne over His kingdom, the church. We partake of this memorial bread in memory of his life and resurrection. In Christ’s name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of the vine. Father in heaven, We express thanks for your power shown in the resurrection of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. May we eat this memorial bread as a tribute to Him and in His memory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, as we are given the opportunity to contribute help us to overcome our fears about giving with an expectant faith in your ability to provide. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus appearances after His resurrection

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-25. ¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained." ²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

Comments: Most of the resurrection appearances of Jesus are in the accounts occurring after his , burial and resurrection, but before his Ascension. In Luke, Jesus appears to the disciples and eats with them, demonstrating that he is flesh and bones, not a ghost. He tells them to wait in Jerusalem for the start of their mission to the world, and then he ascends into the heavens. In the passage we read from John, Jesus appears to a large number of people who acknowledged they had seen Jesus. In Matthew, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and another Mary at his empty tomb. Later, the eleven disciples go to a mountain in Galilee to meet Jesus, who appears to them and commissions them to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to make disciples of all people, an account we call the "Great Commission". Acts describes Jesus' appearance to Paul, in which a voice speaks to Paul and a light blinds him while he's on the road to Damascus. With so many witnesses and accounts we can be assured that Jesus did rise from the dead and was seen by a host of people on various occasions.

Prayer for bread. Heavenly Father, We meet around the Lord's table to celebrate and remember His death, burial and appearances; and take this bread remembering His teachings and commands. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in heaven, we give thanks not only for the sacrifice Jesus made for us, but also for the truth of His appearances which sustains our faith. May we partake of this fruit of the vine worthily and in His memory. In Jesus' name. amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, may we learn to see Jesus in the work of His church we perform. May the bulk of our offering be used to help others see Jesus in our worship, our teaching and our practices. In Jesus' name, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

John's attestations of Jesus

Scripture Reading: John 20: 24-30. ²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." ²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed." ³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Comments: The authentication of the words of Jesus falls under a term named "attestations"; this term includes scripture, traditions and criteria to prove the truth of what was said. Eye-witness accounts, such as we have just read, lend credence to the accounts. In the case of Jesus, we not only have four gospels recorded, but also the epistles of the New Testament and the book of Revelation to attest to the validity of the accounts we accept in the life of Christ. Together, these establish our faith and direct our conduct as Christians. Partaking of the Lord's Supper is one way we demonstrate our faith and obedience.

Prayer for bread. Holy God, thank you for this Supper, this bread, and help us partake in a way to truly show our faith in Jesus, Your Son. In His name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of vine. Father in heaven, we do believe Jesus was sent, taught, was crucified, buried and rose again; and in His memory we partake of this fruit of the vine. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the light of Your Word. Thanks for lighting up our darkness so we can walk confidently and securely in this life.

Help us to not only live by Your Light, but to use our offering to share the light with those who are in darkness. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

This do in remembrance of me

Jesus always with us

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20. ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Comments: Here, Jesus promises to be with us always. This promise is also found in Hebrews where Jesus is quoted, saying, "I will never leave you or forsake you." There are other places in the bible that stress this: Heb. 7:25, "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them"; and Col.:27, "God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Prayer for bread. Lord God, as we take this bread together, we remember the words of Jesus: "Here I stand knocking at the door, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sit down to supper with him, and he with me;" and "I shall indeed be with you soon." In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for fruit of the vine. Father in heaven, this cup of the new covenant of which we now partake, a symbol of the shed blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, taken in memory of Jesus whose presence we acknowledge today. In Christ' name, amen.

Prayer for offering. Heavenly Father. We claim the presence of Jesus with us as we remember the inspired words of the apostle Paul who wrote, "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper..." Help us to always be generous in our offering until Jesus comes to claim us as His own. In His name we pray, amen.

