

Saint Thomas' Church
Maundy Thursday
April 18, 2019
rmcneely+

Do This In Remembrance of Me

Everything had gone wonderfully on Sunday
Large crowds greeted Him
Praised Him
There were shouts of "Hosannah in the Highest"
"Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord"

Zechariah's 800 year prophecy was fulfilled. He wrote:
"Rejoice greatly o daughter of Jerusalem
behold; Thy King cometh unto thee
He is just and having salvation
Lowly and riding upon an ass and upon a colt, the foal of an
ass" Zechariah 9:9

The people saw the prophecy in Jesus and were overwhelmed.

It could not have been a better beginning
It looked very much like Jesus would be followed
By 10s of thousands
What a beginning.

But then things took an unexpected turn.

Where some thought He would rid Jerusalem of the Romans
Instead, Jesus got off the donkey
And stormed the courtyard of the Temple
Throwing over the tables of the money changers
And shouting: "My Father's house
was to be a house of prayer
and you have turned it into a den of thieves".

The Temple guards were looking everywhere for Jesus
What were the Pharisees and Sadducees planning?

What had changed?
Where were the throngs that shouted “Hosannah”?
And strewed their garments and palm branches in the way?

On Thursday night He assembled them in an upper room
Mark Thomas’s upper room according to legend
And He did that thing with the bread and wine.
He washed their feet and said; to lead was to serve.
And they saw He was a servant
They realized that in all the years they had known Him
He served us and served the people.

He gave them a long talk
-sounded as though He was leaving them.

But back to the bread and the wine
He took what was there
Gave thanks
He break it
And gave it to His disciples

Wait,
He’d done the same thing two times before
When He fed the 5,000 and the 4,000

But there was something ancient in what He did.
Some vague, musty story, just beyond the mist of memory
The Old Testament, Genesis, Abraham

Who was it now, oh yes
I remember,
It was that mysterious single appearance in the Old
Testament
Of Melchizedek, a priest and King of Salem (Peace).
Abraham had just returned in victory
And Melchizedek blessed bread and wine
And in a ceremony at the altar
Gave it to them.

As He so often did, Jesus had reached back into the Old Testament
connected with the past
and brought it to the present.
Showed us something that had been there all along

He almost commanded
Do this is remembrance of Me.

Re-membrance;
He was saying that we could recall Him to our memory
By the bread and the wine.
But was there something more
Something deeper?

Re-membrance;
Re-member.
Almost like to member was a verb, something we do.

Can we bring things back together,
Put the members of something back together?
Can we put ourselves back together with Jesus
Is that how He said we could Re-member Him?

That night in the upper room

He told them the bread was His body

The wine was His blood.

When He said “Do this in remembrance of Me”

Was He telling us that when we consumed the Bread, His body

And we drank the wine, His blood

That we put the members back together

We become part of Him and He becomes part of us?

That the entire communion of saints is joined in Him?

That we are spiritually transported to that Upper Room?

And He is with us again?

The question then becomes:

“What will we do with that opportunity?”

Now that we are with Him at the altar

“What will the prayer/conversation be?”

Open our hearts

Open our souls to Him

Let Him in

As we receive Him; the bread and wine, the body and blood

is there praise and thanksgiving for His sacrifice

for the end to death

for paying the price for our sins?

Is there a plea for mercy or the Grace of God in your life?

A plea for someone you love who is in need?

A prayer for guidance for solution; for resolution?

A prayer for the Love of God?

Jesus instituted this Holy Sacrament that night
 In the upper room
 When He knew it would be His last night with them
 Before his crucifixion and resurrection and ascension
 His last night with them.
 This Holy Sacrament is one of the two necessary for eternal life.
 One of the two that Jesus left us.

How could we approach it casually?
 A weekly ho-hum ritual with some nice people,
 poetic words
 pretty flowers
 And brilliant music.

What we do up here in the sanctuary is important
 Serious
 Sustaining
 So we must approach it soberly, consciously and sincerely.
 But what if we don't?

St Paul wrote of the consequences of unworthily receiving, the
 Christ in Communion.
 As important to our lives and souls as Communion is
 It is a disaster to our lives and souls if we do not receive Him
 Worthily.

Read sometime the Exhortations,
 They begin on page 85 of your Prayer Books.
 They contain Paul's dire warning.

Our Church does all it can to administer Communion to us
 Properly.
 It trains the clergy, Locks the apostolic succession
 It guards the liturgy
 It insures the purity and constituency of the host and the wine

We who receive Him are responsible for our state of heart, mind and soul as we do so. That is our part.

Do we come to the altar with a clear conscience?

Our sins confessed in either the general confession of the liturgy or in a confidential oral confession to a priest.

Either way; Our sins absolved?

Do we come to the altar with the firm conviction of the truth
Of the earthly Life of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God
Of His sacrifice for our sins
Of His presence in the Communion?

Or did He do it all for nothing?

Some of His last earthly words were:

“Do this in re-membrance of Me”.

With all that it entails,

Can we obey the Command?