In Remembrance of Me
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Pastor Y. Joe Kim

Luke 22:19-20

19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and
gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in
remembrance of me.' 20 And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,
'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

1. Memorial Day

Tomorrow is Memorial Day. For many people, Memorial Day is just one of the holidays that we have as an opportunity to enjoy a long weekend. But for some people, Memorial Day is a very important day when we remember the soldiers who died for our nation and peace in our world. Often, we also remember those who are dear to us. We remember those who had a big impact on our lives, such as our parents, family members, teachers, friends, and neighbors. Recently my younger brother sent me pictures of my parents' tombstones. He recently had them updated to include their pictures and a brief summary about who they are.

2. Passover

In the same way, we observe Memorial Day, remembering the soldiers who died for our nation, Christians remember Jesus through the sacrament of communion. Luke chapter 22 tells us about what Jesus did on the day before his crucifixion. Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples in Jerusalem. Passover is the most important holiday for the people of Israel. In Exodus chapter 12, God told Moses and Aaron to observe the Passover even before God rescued the Israelites from Egypt. Exodus 12:14 says, "**This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.**" The Israelites are supposed to observe Passover throughout their generations.

Why do you think God tells the Israelites to observe Passover? God tells the Israelites to observe Passover to remember how Israel was delivered from bondage in Egypt. When Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, God told Moses that He would strike every Egyptian home with the death of the firstborn. The Israelites were told to slay a lamb and **"take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it"** (Exodus 12:7) on that night**.** Then God promised**, "I will**

pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt" (Exodus 12:13). When the Israelites observe Passover, they are reminded that they are the people who experienced God's Almighty Power. Such a wonderful story made them go forward without fear in any circumstances.

The four Gospels tell us that Jesus regularly observed Passover with his disciples in Jerusalem. During Passover Jesus taught his disciples about the significance of his death and resurrection. Christians do not regularly observe Passover. However, we remember in the reading of Exodus what God has done to deliver God's people from slavery. In the same way that God saved the nation of Israel through the blood of lambs, we remember that Jesus came to the world to be "**the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**." (John 1:29).

3. Last Supper and First Communion

As God commanded the Israelites to observe Passover, Jesus asked his disciples to do a new ceremony. When Jesus and his disciples gathered to observe Passover, Jesus took a loaf of bread and gave thanks to God. As he broke it and gave it to his disciples, he said, "**This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you'**" (Luke 22:19-20). Jesus instituted a new ritual which today is called "The Lord's Supper" or "Holy Communion."

For the Israelites, Passover is the most important holiday. For Christians, the Lord's Supper is one of the sacraments. John Wesley says the holy communion is one means of grace. Through the holy communion, we experience the grace of Jesus Christ. For Catholics, without the communion, there is no worship service. Many Protestant churches serve the communion a few times a year or once a month. In the United Methodist Church, each local church determines how often to serve communion. Some churches celebrate the Lord's Supper every week. Why do they serve communion so often? What is the meaning of the holy communion? This morning, I'd like to share with you the three-fold meaning of the holy communion.

1) Remembering Jesus' Sacrifice and Freedom

When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we eat a piece of bread in remembrance of Jesus' death and his resurrection. We rejoice that Jesus has conquered death, and has set us free who were enslaved by a fear of death

(Hebrews 2:14-15). When we drink wine at the Lord's table, we remember that his blood was shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus' crucifixion shows us that God loves us so much that he sent his Son to die for us. How do you feel when you hear this meaning of the holy communion? If this meaning is understood just as one of the Christian doctrines, the holy communion would be just one of the religious rituals. But if we accept this meaning as a new reality, our hearts will be filled with great joy and gratitude.

In my early twenties, I struggled with guilty feelings every day. One day I read Hebrews 9:12, **"he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption."** This Bible verse set me free from guilty feelings. I was so grateful for Jesus' sacrifice for me. This is the good news of Jesus Christ for me and for everyone in the world.

2) Remembering the Presence of Jesus

When we come to the Lord's table, we not only remember the redemption of Jesus Christ but also his presence with us. John 6:56 says, **"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them."** The Lord's Supper reminds us that we live in Christ, and Christ lives in us. As long as the Lord lives in us, there is nothing to worry about. And there is nothing to be afraid of because the Lord is with us. In Numbers 13, we find that 12 leaders from each tribe were sent to explore the land of Canaan. When they returned, ten of them said, **"We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we are"** (Numbers 13:31). However, Joshua and Caleb said, **"If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us"** (Numbers 14:8).

As you see from the insert in today's bulletin, next Sunday I am going to present a proposal for the future of the Activity Center. From a human's perspective, my proposal may not seem to work. But if we see our future from God's perspective, nothing is impossible. As long as we believe God has a wonderful plan for our church, we will see that God will accomplish God's dream. As you may know, I have a Master's degree in Business Administration. I would not begin to do anything without the confidence that I could do it. However, I believe that the Activity Center is God's business, and we just need to discern whether it is God's will or not. For the past eleven months, I have been praying for the Activity Center, and now, I believe that God will show us a miracle.

3) Remembering Jesus' Return

When we participate in the holy communion, we remember Jesus' promise. Luke 22:18 says, **"from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."** Paul also says, "**whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes**" (1 Cor. 11:26). When we have the Lord's Supper, we are reminded that Jesus will return to the world. When he comes back, we will see the renewed world as Revelation 21:3-4 says, "**I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;** [4] **he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away**.'" When we come to the Lord's table, we remember that Jesus will be back. So, in any circumstances we can have hope.

4. Conclusion

The Lord's Supper has a truly rich meaning. The holy communion reminds us of what God has done through Jesus in the past, what God is doing through Jesus right now, and what God will do through Jesus in the future. According to Acts 2:46, the early Christians had the holy communion every day: **"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts."**

Many of you may know that I love to take pictures. Pictures help me to remember how God has been helping me with my ministry. For Christians, the holy communion is like a collection of pictures. When we take the communion, it is as if we are looking into pictures of what God has been doing for us. We remember times when we experienced God's love. We remember God's grace through his Son, Jesus Christ. And we remember that the power of the Holy Spirit is not far from us.

5. Application

As we take this weekend to remember those who have died in service to our country, let us also take the time to remember our awesome God and his precious Son, Jesus Christ. I pray that we continue to remember and make precious memories together each day as we worship and serve God's people in our community.