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**Leader Training: 5C – Ecclesiology (Sacraments: Lord's Supper)**

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Disclosure: Moore College Distance – has produced a Correspondence Course called '*Doctrine 3: The Church*' written by Canon D. B. Knox. This seminar follows his outline and logic and reproduces much of what he wrote.

## **Ecclesiology (Sacraments)**

### **What is a Sacrament?**

- A sacrament describes certain rites of the Christian faith – an observance of something theologically (sacred) significant.
- It is an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sign of something which is an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual reality.
- The Reformed (protestant) church recognises two sacraments – Lord's Supper and Baptism.
- The Roman Catholic Church recognises seven sacraments – the Lord's Supper and Baptism and they add Confirmation, Orders (ordination), Matrimony, Penance and Extreme Unction (last rites).
- Biblically, the sacraments themselves have no power and so it is the faithful use or expression which makes them valuable to the Christian community.

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**Lord's Supper****Exercise:**

Read through the Lord's Supper accounts:

- Matthew 26:17-30
- Mark 14:12-26
- Luke 22:7-23

1. What appears to be the purpose?

2. What does it say about the past?

3. What does it say about the future?

- Then read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

4. What appears to be the purpose?

- The early church called this believers meal \_\_\_\_\_ – in other words the *Thanksgiving* (based on what Jesus did when he gave thanks to God). In that sense it describes the logical response of the believer to what God has done.
- The idea of \_\_\_\_\_ comes from the way that the Apostle Paul speaks about this meal in 1 Cor 10:16 as an act of communion or fellowship – all sharing in the body and blood of Christ.
- It is in 1 Corinthians 11:20 where the meal is titled *the* \_\_\_\_\_ and it describes the action itself.
- There are not that many references in the New Testament to the Lord's Supper, yet there is clear indication that the meaning and value for Christians in participating in the Lord's supper is an act of fellowship (based on the death of Christ and the forgiveness that he brings). Note, it is not as a way to growing in holiness or grace.

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### Remembering & Looking Forward

- The Lord's Supper took place at Passover time.
- The Passover was instituted by God as a way of remembering what he did to save/deliver Israel from slavery to the Egyptians (Ex 12:25-27).
- When Jesus took his disciples through the service, he emphasised the idea of remembrance. What he changed was that he now spoke of the deliverance of all from the curse of God for the forgiveness of sins.
- Christian remembrance of Christ is not only backward looking to the fulfillment of Calvary but forward looking to the future fulfillment in the second coming of Christ.
- Note that Jesus says to his disciples that they will share with him at his table (Lk 22:30) which Paul reinforces in be contrasting the Lord's table with the table of the demons (1 Cor 10:21). Both are talking metaphorically about the messianic feast which believers will share with Jesus at his second coming.

#### Exercise:

Read through versions of the Lord's Supper which we use at Church (see Appendix 1-4).

1. How does it reflect what we have read in the Gospel and Epistle accounts?

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**Covenant**

- God’s relationship with those he has redeemed has always been in accord with his covenant.
- A covenant is a set of promises made by God. It corresponds with a reciprocal agreement by those who accept his covenant and express an intention to live by faith and in obedience.
- The covenant is often accompanied by a sign, a reminder or seal of the covenant – Noah received a rainbow (Gen 9:12-17), Abraham the sign of circumcision (Gen 17:9-14). Moses a blood sacrifice (Ex 24:3-8).
- At the Lord’s Supper, Jesus associated his death with the covenant sacrifices of Exodus 24 *‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you’* (Lk 22:20). In other words, those redeemed by God are sealed by the death of Christ.
- The Lord’s Supper is a sign or agreement of the covenant between God and believers based on the death of Christ.

**Sacramental Language**

- Jesus uses sacramental language at the last Supper. That is, he uses language to signify a deeper reality. His language is a sign, not the reality itself.
- So, when he takes the bread and says *‘This is my body given for you’* and when he takes the cup and says *‘This cup is the new covenant’* (Lk 22:19-20), he is in no way proclaiming the bread to be his actual body or the (contents of the) cup to be the new covenant. They are both signs.

**Exercise:**

- Read John 6:25-59
1. What is his point?
  2. How and why should we not take this literally?

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- The relationship between John 6 and the Lord's Supper is not a direct relationship, but they are related – faith in the death of Jesus is central.
- The Lord's Supper is a particular way of doing what John 6 is saying is essential – feeding on Christ.
- The error of many across the ages has been to identify the sign with the thing signified and as such people have come to worship the actual bread or wine or to consider that the ceremony itself was necessary to gain or keep salvation.

**The Roman Catholic Church/Orthodox Church view of the Eucharist**

- The Eucharist is a Sacrament, it conveys grace to all who receive it worthily. The Eucharist also makes present Christ's sacrifice on the Cross in an unbloody manner, for that reason it is sometimes known as the Holy sacrifice of the Mass. Through it, forgiveness of sin may be obtained.

On consecration, *the bread and the wine change completely into the actual body and blood of Christ*. This change is known as \_\_\_\_\_ and Christ's presence in the elements is called the Real Presence.

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ the table!

**The Lutheran View of the Eucharist**

- In Lutheranism, there is a Sacramental Union of the bread and wine with the body and blood of Christ. In other words, Christ's body and blood are present "*in, with and under*" the forms of bread and wine. This is sometimes known as \_\_\_\_\_ (although Luther himself did not use this term).

Luther explained his view by using an analogy of an iron rod placed into a fire: both are united in the red-hot iron, yet both are also distinct.

Lutheranism rejects the view of the Eucharist as "making present" Christ's sacrifice on the Cross.

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ the table!

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**The Protestant View of Communion**

- The Protestant view denies any form of physical or spiritual presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Rather, the Lord's Supper is a remembrance of Christ's suffering and a reminder of his power to overcome sin and death.

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ the table!

Note: There are a wide variety of views (and practices) associated with the Eucharist/Communion. Although denominations tend to have documented positions of the significant, place and practice of the Eucharist, it is not unusual for churches within a denomination to hold differing views (for example across Australia in Uniting, Baptist, Methodist, Anglican, Pentecostal churches one can find divergent views)

Further, some groups (e.g. the Salvation Army) do not practice any observance of the Eucharist/Communion.

- Jesus made clear, that the purpose of the Lord's Supper was remembrance – to remember a completed activity which Christ offered on the cross (c.f. Heb 7:27; 10:10-14).
- Not all who partake of the supper receive the blessing but those who see, by way of the sign, Christ's death for them and believe in him, receive the strengthening of Christ, the Bread of Life, for their soul.

**Reflection:**

- Which do you prefer – taking communion at the communion rail or from where you are seated in the pews (given Trinity does both)?
- What are the benefits of both?

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**Appendix 1 – Trinity Church: 9am Communion**

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all.<sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,<sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ,<sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14)

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.        Amen.**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

**We do not presume  
to come to your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord,  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
by faith to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour, thanks and praise,  
are yours now and always,  
Lord, holy Father, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by his death on the cross and rising to new life  
offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

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Therefore, with the whole company of heaven  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, Father, we pray  
that we who receive these your gifts of bread and wine  
according to our Saviour's word  
may be partakers of his body and blood.  
For on the night he was betrayed he took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you, his almighty Father,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the remission of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**With this bread and this cup  
we show forth Christ's death  
until he comes in glory.**

*Sharing in the Bread & Wine*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine,  
you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood  
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.



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Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,  
and that we are members of his body.

**Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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**Appendix 2 – Trinity Church: 10.30am Communion**

## 1. Explanation:

A way of remembering and celebrating Jesus' death for us,  
which makes us right with God

## 2. Invitation:

- i) parents re children - if they understand
- ii) visitors - if trust is in Christ
- iii) unsure/investigating Christianity - use time to pray

## 3. Exhortation:

We who come to receive this reminder of Christ's body and blood,  
can come only because of his great love for us.  
And because we're undeserving of that love,  
it's right that we first confess our sins to God,  
and turn to him in faith

## 4. Confession

## 5. The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in Heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## 6. Remembrance

We thank you Father,  
that on the night before Jesus died, he took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks, he broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, and eat.  
This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me'.  
After the meal, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

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Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me'.

**Therefore Father,  
we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine,  
and pray that we who eat and drink them,  
believing our Saviour's word,  
may share in his body and blood.  
Amen.**

We eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord  
**to proclaim our fellowship in his death.**

**Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

#### 7. Logistics

1. During the next song, ushers will bring around the bread and grape juice
2. Don't get up from your seat, remain seated, and take a piece of bread and cup of juice, and hold onto them so that we can all celebrate together.
3. Be careful to hold the tray by the handle when passing the juice onto the person beside you.

#### 8. Administration

##### BREAD

Jesus said,  
'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6:35

As the body of Christ, take and eat, remembering that Christ died for you, and be thankful. (eat).

##### GRAPE JUICE

'Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.'

#### 9. Prayer

Father,  
Thank you for feeding us  
with these gifts of bread and wine,  
and the reminder again of our Saviour's death for us.  
Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,  
and that we belong to him.

Change us by your Holy Spirit,  
Keep us united in the death of Christ,

and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.          Amen.

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**Appendix 3 – Trinity Church 5pm Church: Lord’s Supper**

When we share the Lord’s Supper together we remember and acknowledge what it is that Jesus has done for us by dying on the cross. We should come to this table both solemnly and thankfully.

As sinners we ask God for forgiveness. In faith we give thanks to God for his salvation in Christ.

And so, to start, let’s take a moment to confess our sin.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have gone our own way,  
not loving you as we ought,  
nor loving our neighbour as ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.  
We deserve your condemnation.  
Father, forgive us.  
Help us to love you and our neighbour,  
and to live for your honour and glory;  
though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The great news is that in mercy, God has promised forgiveness  
to all who turn to him in true faith.  
He pardons and sets us free from our sins.  
May he strengthen you to do his will, and keep you in eternal life;  
though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**He is worthy of all praise.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things,  
making us in your own image.

We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who, by his death on the cross and rising to  
new life, offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

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So, we lift our voices to praise you, saying

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

And now, gracious Father, we thank you for these gifts of bread and juice, and pray that we, who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and blood.

On the night before he died, he took bread; and when he had given thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

We eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord,

**to proclaim our fellowship in his death.**

We do this until he returns.

**Come Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall Christ's saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by your Holy Spirit.

Come let us share in this bread and juice in remembrance that Christ died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**Serving of Communion**

*Serving the Bread - Give the bread with either of these blessings:*

'The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, keep your body and soul for everlasting life. Amen'.

*or*

'Take and eat, in remembrance that Christ died for you and be thankful'.

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*Serving the Juice - offer the cup with either of these blessings:*

'The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was poured out for you, keep your body and soul for everlasting life. Amen'.

*or*

'Drink this, in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful'.

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**Appendix 4 – Trinity Church 7pm: Communion***Bible Verse*

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Bible Verse*

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**He is worthy of all praise.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image.

We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who, by his death on the cross and rising to new life, offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now, gracious Father, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we, who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and blood. On the night before he died, he took bread; and when he had given thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

We eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord,

**to proclaim our fellowship in his death.**

We do this until he returns.

**Come Lord Jesus**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by your Holy Spirit and united in the body of your Son.



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Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise:

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen**

We who are many are one body in Christ

**for we all share in the one bread.**

Come let us share in this bread and wine in remembrance that Christ died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Sharing in the Bread & Wine*