

Aveleigh's Year of the Bible, Sunday July 15, 2018
COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sermon: FRIENDS WITH GOD ETERNAL

Texts John 15: 1-6 & John 15:7-17 p. 1158-9

CALL TO WORSHIP : Leader: Bread is baked --

People: A community gathers.

Leader: Bread is blessed --

People: Awe and thanks for the miracle of creation.

Leader: Bread is broken --

People: That we might be whole.

Leader: Bread is shared --

People: That all might be fed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Merciful Lord Jesus, At your generous table, we share the cup of life and the bread of strength. Here our errors can be cleansed, our lives made new and our futures secured by your grace.

As we have eaten and drunk in remembrance of you, so let us live in remembrance of you. Let us care for the needy, in remembrance of your mercy. Let us resist evil in any form, in remembrance of your victory over Satan. Let us show compassion to all, in remembrance of your tender care of the suffering. Let us forgive those who have sinned against us, in remembrance of the forgiveness you have lavished upon us. Let us be constant in prayer and worship, in remembrance of your faithfulness. Let us be diligent and careful in our work, in remembrance of your labors on our behalf. Let us be quick to nourish hope and faith in others, in remembrance of the comfort and strength we have found in your Presence. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mitch's pastoral prayer: Redeemer Lord, Long ago, on a distant road to a place called Emmaus, your disciples came to recognize your Presence with them through the breaking of bread. Today we, your disciples, journey upon far different roads, but our need for you is the same.

We are weary. We need your renewing Presence before we continue on our way. Come to us, Lord, in the breaking of bread and the sharing of wine. Let us feel the warmth of your life-giving blood flowing through us. Let us feel the fullness of your love as we share bread and body together.

In this holy meal, lift from our stooped hearts the burden of sin and guilt. Release us from the condemnation of our conscience and help us walk with bolder stride the path before us. Together make us part of your body in the world, bearing your creative and redeeming love to a hurting creation.

As we share this, your victory feast, fill us with energy to live out our faith in the arena of our daily work and responsibility. Train our hearts and minds to find joy in serving our neighbors and fulfillment in living for you.

After we leave this table, send us out with renewed courage to proclaim the faith and hope within us to a world that needs both. For then we shall have become your body in the world. Amen.

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Jesus: *"I no longer call you servants... Instead, I call you my friends!"* John 15:15

Preparing for worship: Most holy Lord, we come to your table hungry for hope and healing. Come to us through this bread and wine. Strengthen us in body, mind and spirit to do your will in the world. As we gather at your table, make us, who are many, one with you. Draw our hearts and minds into such communion with you and with one another that we may be living signs of your love in the world. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**A. THERE ARE FOUR WORDS THAT ARE USED TO REFER
TO THE SAME SYMBOL IN THE BIBLE.**

In the book of Acts, it's called the "breaking of bread

In 1 Corinthians 10:16 it's called communion. The word there in the Greek is the word *koinonia*. It's the word for fellowship. Communion and fellowship are the same thing.

Corinthians 11:20-21 it's called the Lord's Supper.

And in 1 Corinthians 11 the next couple of verses after that it's called the *Eucharist*. *Eucharist* is a Greek word that means Thanksgiving. How appropriate for us to take the Lord's Supper at Thanksgiving. We receive it with thanks.

So whether you call this breaking of bread, the Lord's Supper, communion or *Eucharist*. It's the same thing. It's four different words for the same symbol that Jesus gave to all of us.

B. THE LORD'S SUPPER ANSWERS THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS IN YOUR LIFE.

1. DO I MATTER TO GOD?

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

2. CAN I BE FORGIVEN?

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

3. SO GOD LOVES ME?

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Benediction Prayer: Lord Jesus, let us always remember to give you thanks and praise every time we come together and share in the bread and cup. Let us always remember the depth of your commitment to us. Let us never take for granted the price you paid so we might receive the fullness of the grace present in this meal.

FOUR FOR THE ROAD; Discuss the above 3 questions and talk about your communion experience.