

March 6, 2011    **A Leviticus Communion Service**

*To God be the Glory*

Call to Worship Psalm 50:1-6    **Leader:**

<sup>1</sup> The Mighty One, The Holy LORD God, the Father of Jesus  
speaks and summons everyone from the east and  
everyone from the west ..... to come.

<sup>2</sup> From the glory and beauty of the Holy of Holies,  
God's welcoming Word radiates the invitation ... come.

<sup>3</sup> God desires to be with us. God desires a meaningful relationship with us;

<sup>4</sup> God calls us so that he may minister to us and heal us: God says:

<sup>5</sup> "Gather in my presence my baptized sons and daughters,  
all you who worship me and bow down to me - come."

You are my children; I love you, and want to bless you with grace and peace.

**All:** Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before our God with thanksgiving and honor the LORD with music and song. For we know the LORD is the great God, the great King above all powers. We come to bow down in worship and kneel before the LORD our maker. He is our God and we are his children, the family under his loving care.

**Leader:** Prayer for the Work and ministry of the Holy Spirit (No Mutual greetings)

Songs of Redemption

**How Great Thou Art & Before the Throne**

**Children go to Children's Worship & we read from the book we love.**

**Leviticus 6:8 – 7:38 The seven instructions for the Communion Service.**

The GOOD NEWS OF the Bible is this: through the ministry of the cross and the ministry of our high priest Jesus, God invites us and welcomes us into the Holy Of Holies of Worship to experience Holy Communion with him. Peace – Fellowship with him

In the first year of their freedom 5771 years ago, God said to Moses: "Tell my people to bring me an offering of worship. You, Moses, are to receive this offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. With these offerings of worship make a tent of meeting for me, and I will dwell among them in Holy Communion. (Exodus 25:1,2, 9) Make the tent of meeting exactly as I tell you and when you bring your offerings of worship do it exactly as I command. (Leviticus 1:1,2)

The book of Leviticus is the Worship Manual of the people of God. In the first six Chapters God designs for them the five fundamentals of worship, the five basic worship

acts. In chapters 1-3 God tells them how to do the pleasing Aroma offerings – offerings for the sheer pleasure of God, offerings to put a smile on the face of God – the burnt offering, grain offering, and the peace/fellowship offering. And in chapter 4-6 God tells them how to do the Atonement Offerings for the forgiveness of sins – the sin offering and the restitution offering. These instructions for the five basic worship acts are given to the ordinary people to help them experience the presence and blessing of God.

Today, on this Communion Sunday we read Leviticus 6 & 7 starting at verse 6:8. Read 6:8 – 13; and since the Lord's Supper is a fellowship/peace offering we will also read 7:12 – 15. God says to Moses in 6:8: Give the priests, give the leaders of the liturgy this command. Only twice does God give a direct command in Leviticus. This is one of them. The other is given to the people in Chapter 24. The order of worship must be God Designed. If you want to experience the glory of God with us, Holy Communion you start with the burnt offering. Then add to that the grain offering as a pleasing aroma acts of worship, then you add the sin offering and restitution offering for the atonement of sin and finally you get to the finale, the goal of worship in the fellowship or peace (Shalom) offering. The goal of worship is peace and communion with God.

And if I can just review for a moment the significance of each of these offering that may help us understand our Holy Communion liturgy this morning.

In the Leviticus Communion Liturgy – Peace the order is important

**Burnt Offering:** Whole life, whole animal, 24-7 offering to God. Restoring & nurturing our relationship with God.

**Grain Offering:** Memorial and the most holy part eaten by priests. This offering is for the church restoring and our place and participation in the mission of God.

**Sin Offering:** Memorial and the most holy part eaten by priests restoring and healing the self/person through truthful confession

Restoring our feelings of acceptance and being forgiven & loved

**Restitution Offering:** undoing the brokenness plus a gift of hope. Restoring and nurturing our relationships with others and expressing our hopes and prayers for future peace

**FELLOWSHIP OFFERING:** The Lord's Supper is a Fellowship Offering. An expression of thanks . Bringing the foods for a party into the sanctuary. memorial offering to God, the most abundant and holy part for the community.

Meat, bread (unleavened and leavened), wine to celebrate a new day with God, self, others and the world.

Key Worship verse in Leviticus is 19:2

This is the environment of Spirit & truth worship

This unleashes the grace, mercy, and love of God.

“Be Holy, for I the Lord your God am Holy.

Entering Holy of Holies fellowship with God requires that we are holy. By going through these worship actions we are made holy and enabled to experience communion with God.

I'd like you to notice two verses in Leviticus 6-7

Read 6:18 Whoever touches the most holy parts of the offerings (grain, sin and restitution) will become Holy. 6:27 Whatever touches any of the flesh of the sin offering – again the most holy part – will become holy.

This is what happens in the Lord's Supper. Jesus, the Lamb of God was offered as the burnt offering to restore our relationship with God. Jesus was the most holy part of the grain offering, the sin offering and the restitution offering. To restore our sense of self – heals our soul and our self understanding. The Jesus offering restores our relationships with others and stirs in us the hope for a new creation. All those who touch even the bread and the flesh and the blood of the Jesus sacrifice foreshadowed in Leviticus become holy for communion with God.

In the Lord's Supper we do not just touch the bread that heals, or touch the flesh that atones, or touch the blood that purifies, we eat and drink it so that our whole being, our outer being and our inner being is restored and healed and purified. We are made holy as Jesus is holy and God is holy. By eating and drinking the Jesus offering every cell in our body is made clean and holy.

This good news teaching is not just a matter of words it is a matter of physical experience. The Lord's Supper is a media presentation of grace, a concrete eating and drinking of this grace and this truth.

So this morning we will go through the Leviticus Communion liturgy of the Lord's Supper fellowship peace offering to help us experience the fullness of communion with God and the love of God. So let us begin and get ready to celebrate Holy Communion. Pray

1. The Lord calls from the Holy of Holies and invites us in to communion worship saying bring your worship through the once and for all offering of Jesus. Come unto me all you who are weary and burned and I will give you peace (Matthew 11:28)
2. The Burnt offering: Rm 12:1,2 Offer your bodies, minds, hearts and strengthen as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God this is your true worship. Not our will but God's will be done. We sing **I surrender all**

3. Grain Offering: John 6:35 I am the bread of life. They who come to me will never go hungry, and they who believe in me will never be thirsty.

We sing **Take my Life**: 4-6

Deacons take up Offering for the upkeep and ministry of the church.

4. Sin offering: writing out our sins 4 dimensions; God self, others & the world  
Confession & repentance  
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from ALL unrighteousness.... Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 1: 9 & 2:2 we sing **Lord Have Mercy**

5. Restitution Offering: Commitment to offer some time in ministry for the coming of God's kingdom. Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a committed spirit within me. Cast me not from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy and the passion of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me. Then I will teach other your ways, and point sinners to the cross. Psalm 51: 10-13 Song of service & commitment. **Refiner's Fire**

6. The Fellowship Offering: People come forward Jesus is our peace. Ephesians 2:14  
*The Washing; dip their finger in the baptismal font water and place the sign of the cross with water on forehead or hand. Take a stone (with the blood stain) out of the water as a reminder of our baptism that we are washed clean by the blood of Jesus.*

*The Burning: taking the confession cards and burning them on the BBQ*

*The Eating & Drinking: Making us holy by digesting the body and blood of Jesus into our bodies. Becoming one with him in his sacrificial atoning death. We sing **Bind Us Together***

*The Passing of Peace: Peace with God, Self, others and creation **Father, we Love you***

*The praying: Prayer for the people and the community and the mission of the church to live out the gospel. The Praying: Pray for true community and for each other.*

*The Praising: **To God be the Glory** (632)*

*The Priestly Blessing Over Renewed God Community*

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.*

*May the Lord make his love shine on you  
and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord shine his God smile on you  
and give you peace forever. Amen*

**"My Friends May You Grow in Grace"**