

Dear beloved of the Lord,

This will be the first year in the 19 years that I have been pastor of Sand Lake Chapel that on Holy Thursday, often known as Maundy Thursday, when we have not gathered in the evening to celebrate the Lord's supper. If you have wondered where the word Maundy originates, it is a shortened form of the Latin *mandatum* which means command. Thus Jesus' command at the Last Supper:

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." Jn. 13:34, NASB95*

And I'm sure you all know that the Last Supper was a Passover, or *Pesach*, meal. It was partaken of on the eve of Passover. Then, following Passover, the next seven days were celebrated as the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Thus the entire Passover festival was held over eight days.

Traditionally we celebrate Passover eve with a communion supper reminiscent of the Lord instituting the sacrament. I would like to suggest that this Thursday evening, you continue the tradition by receiving communion in your home with those of your family with whom you are able to gather (in keeping with your convictions regarding the corona restrictions).

I would suggest before partaking of the elements to read and reflect on the following Bible verses:

<b>Ex. 12:1-27</b>	<i>The Passover Lamb &amp; Feast of Unleavened Bread</i>
<b>Deut. 16:1</b>	<i>Command to celebrate the Passover Annually</i>
<b>Luke 22:1-23</b>	<i>Jesus' Last Supper</i>
<b>1 Cor. 11:23-32</b>	<i>Paul's Instructions</i>

For those of you who have regularly partaken of the communion celebration during our Sunday worship service, you will be familiar with the instruction I normally give in keeping with our guidelines and Paul's instruction:

- Our communion service is open to all who profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior – there are no denominational or church membership restrictions;
- We have no limitation on age but rather trust that moms and dads who allow their children to receive, have instructed them in the meaning and seriousness of the sacrament.

*That being said*, as you prepare your heart, recall Jesus' own instruction, *"... do this in remembrance of Me."* {Lk. 22:19} The remembrance that Jesus is calling us to, and which is represented by the elements, is His sacrifice of Himself as the Paschal Lamb. So keep these things in mind:

- **1 Cor. 11:26** – "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."
  - *Proclaim* – your opportunity to *preach* to one another
  - *Often* ... until He comes – one of the reasons we gather together as the body of Christ in obedience to **Heb. 11:23-25**
- **1 Cor. 11:28** – "But a man must examine himself ..."
  - We affirm the all-sufficiency of His sacrifice,
  - We affirm our inability to save ourselves
  - We affirm the gravity of failing to "judge the body" (His sacrifice) rightly.

You may not have unleavened bread or grape juice in your home (who normally does!), so feel free to use whatever substitute is available. After all, it is the heart within that counts: **Prov. 27:19**

As in water face *reflects* face,  
So the heart of man *reflects* man.

Please continue in prayer for the Lord to destroy this virus and that we will soon be gathered together in our common worship and fellowship.

And now receive the benediction:

*May the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
That great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,  
Make you perfect in every good work, to do His will,  
Working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight,  
Through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory, forever and ever,  
Amen*

In Christ,  
Pastor Lohry