

## REFORMED CHURCH BELLVILLE: SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2010: HOLY COMMUNION

**Sing before (standing):** Psalm 100:1,4

*Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Psalm of praise: Psalm 136: 1,2

**Confession of faith:** Apostolic

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, a holy universal Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting

**Amen.**

*After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 102:1*

Law

Psalm: 102:1

**Prayer:**

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation for the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises.**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

**Amen**

Psalm 138:1

Scripture reading: John 12 and Revelation 19

Scripture text: John 12:15 and revelation 19:11

**"Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."**  
(John 12:15)

**Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. (Revelation 19:11)**

It is amazing how fast and radical matters may change. From both passages of the New Testament we read about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord, who saved us.

NB: Neither is from the Old Testament – noteworthy the development, concerning our salvation, taking place during our times

- First, during His last entry into Jerusalem, the Lord Jesus rode on the foal of an ass.
- The next time the Lord, in His Godly Majesty, rides on a white horse – when He appears in the clouds as the Eternal Judge, closing our times with His judgement and the arrival of the New Jerusalem.

The first time symbolises mercy and humility. Thinking about it, very close to a defenceless image. All the ensuing happenings are depicted in the image of Jesus sitting on the foal of an ass:

- A Man entering the City of God, riding on the foal of an ass, on His way to death.
- He comes to complete the last portion of His battle as a human being.
- He comes to die for the sake of others.
- He will be suffering much pain metered out to Him by the Father.
- He must die – God determined it – and on the third day He has to arise from death.

The last appearance differs vastly from this one.

The first completely depicted a sign of service:

- The Lord Jesus came to die and reconcile.
- Even although sitting on a foal of an ass, His kingship still is apparent by the fact that He enters the City of God, riding.

The last appearance totally differs from this entrance on the donkey foal:

- The final coming is distinguished by the fact that it does not symbolise any sign of service!
- It is a coming depicted by a sign of aggression.
- The Lord Jesus arrives as an Army-commander with His being bearing witness to His victory over all forces opposing God and His Holiness.
  - A Commander on a white horse, together with his complete army, all riding white horses appears.
  - White is the sign of victory
  - and the horse the symbol of war!

Christ comes as the Faithful and True.

- Then, due to our faithfulness and because we remained with the truth, we will be gathered.
- But at the same time there also is the inexorability in the description about those not sharing in the faithfulness and truth of Jesus Christ.
- It is not without reason that written here is that He judges and wars.
- The only measure is the justness of God!

In order of partaking in this Sacrament of Holy Communion in a truly sanctifying way, we have to pay attention to the following matters:

- Consider it that when we partake in Holy Communion, that we may not remain at the King on the donkey.

- In the meanwhile He, sitting on the white horse of war, became the Commander of the heavenly forces.
- He does not come to die again for justice – now, by His justice, He destroys everybody should they move outside the boundaries of His truth.

In the description of His eyes the judgement and mercy coincides.

It is like a flame of fire:

- The mercy lies in the fire destroying everything wanting to estrange us from God. We are thus sanctified and everything threatening us is removed.
- The judgement lies in the fire incinerating at the same time the heaven-alien elements. Through the judgement (cleansing process) it is removed from the midst of all the chosen. Everything and all that is bad goes to hell.

Today we sit at the table of Holy Communion as worshippers of the God on the white horse. Let us put it differently:

- The Victor over all forces in heaven and on earth offers you the Holy Communion.
- We are sitting here because His power and majesty assembled us here.
- We sit here because His Holy Spirit confirms to us that once, in the derogatory image of a donkey rider, He had to go to His city.
  - So that we, who were the cause of His suffering and death, may partake in Holy Communion, because that humiliation was for our sakes!

We will now do two things:

- Commemorate the cross-death of the Lord. It is a meal in commemoration of His humiliation and victory, granting us total reconciliation.
- But you must also experience it as a meal of community with the Lord Jesus and all the effects He earned for you. He is present, together with you, at the table of Holy Communion.
  - Of course His death was not only in aid of His own victory over Satan, who rose against Him in order to rob Him of His crown.
  - His death certainly was in aid of ensuring and confirming, beyond any shadow of a doubt and forever, His omnipotence and glorification over the Satan.
  - But all this was especially also **for our sakes!** Our punishment was borne by His humiliation and imprecation. That reconciled us to God.

Therefore the Holy Communion confirms the gentleness of God's love for us – a love, confirming to all of you today, renewed re-creation and eternal life. The Rider of the white horse, by means of this meal, confirms that all of you will be part of the heavenly gathering following Him, riding on white horses.

**Amen.**

Prayer.

Psalm 33:1

Formulary

Psalm 23:2

To the table:

During Holy Communion: Psalm 116 and Psalm 118

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 68:2

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**Amen**

**Dr MJ Du Plessis  
Reformed Church Bellville  
21 February 2010  
Scripture Modern King James Version**