

REFORMED CHURCH BELLVILLE: SUNDAY 23 MAY 2010: HOLY COMMUNION

Sing before: Psalm 119:62

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 146:1, 3

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 sing about God's protection – thus also forgiveness of all our sins with Psalm 138:4

Law

Psalm: 138:4

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 102:12

Scripture reading: John 5

Scripture text: John 5:24

Truly I say to you, The man whose ears are open to my word and who has faith in him who sent me, has eternal life; he will not be judged, but has come from death into life.
(John 5:24)

A small child lies on his deathbed. During these times of his struggle with death two things happened.

- There is a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Overwhelming joy, where Jesus, because God's mercy is more always plentiful than what we can use, gave the wedding guests more wine than they needed!
- And the father of the dying child is on his way to the Lord Jesus. He wants to plea for the life of his child.

Then he finds the Lord Jesus.

- Urgently he pleaded with Jesus to please accompany him to his house as his child was dying. The Lord Jesus then said: "Go in peace; your son is living!" He revealed to power of God to the man, because this nobleman later discovered that his child recovered at the exact time of Jesus' words.

Thereafter Jesus healed the sick man of Bethesda.

- At first this man did not know who healed him, but later when he discovered who it was he told the Jews that it was Jesus.
- Instead of the people being glad that there was somebody able to command life from death and heal people, they wanted to kill Him.

Then Jesus delivered this sermon.

The contents of this sermon can be summed up in one single sentence: the Son and the Father, because they are one, work together.

But Jesus also wanted to open the eyes of His people.

- He does not want them to only consider the sick child, the wine and the man who, for thirty-eight years, had an infirmity.
- They must look beyond the patients and realise what God really is doing. He is causing life from death!

The Lord will still perform greater works than this.

- The dead will be resurrected and come to a resurrection of eternal life, or they will be resurrected to live forever in the dark miseries of hell.

Thus a day will arrive when the Lord will do two totally different things, but both will serve to His glorification.

- He will resurrect all people and envelop some with His glory and take them with him to heaven to glorify Him.
- The other will be cast in hell so that their rejection may mirror His glory.
 - His power and strength will, to His glorification, triumph over them and their wickedness.

And here the Holy Communion already fits in. In a certain way the final judgement is revealed at the Table of Holy Communion:

- Some, to the strengthening of their faith, may join.
- God forbids others, due to their perseverance in sin. Because our God does not want to mix decay with His mercy.

- Therefore these words of the Lord Jesus also have relevance to Himself.
 - He, who is the Son of God, will innocently be judged Himself and will die.
 - But He will conquer the power of death over Him:
 - He will arise and take all His chosen with Him into life.

This resurrection on the final day has a prelude.

- It is the spiritual resurrection already happening in this life. People are coming to conversion. This already is the start of the resurrection from death.
- We others daily convert from our sins and we try to live more and more holy.
- This is the prelude to the resurrection, until eventually God physically resurrects us from the grave.

In this way the Word of God has two sides:

- The one is luring. It is the deliverance and glory and mercy.
- The other side is dark and ominous: it is the hell and judgement and misery.

Now you see the meaning of our scripture text:

Truly I say to you, The man whose ears are open to my word and who has faith in him who sent me, has eternal life; he will not be judged, but has come from death into life.
(John 5:24)

Beloved, come and enjoy the sermon of mercy of this sacrament.

- It teaches us that the body of Christ was broken for us to the remission of sins... that we have gone over, by Jesus Christ, from death to life.

Amen.

Prayer

Psalm 25:3

Formulary

Psalm 23:3

To the table:

During Holy Communion: Psalm 116

Psalm 118

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 89:17

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

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Scripture Modern King James Version**