

Love Feast....Mummers 1999

Singing:

O.M...Welcome to the celebration!

Tonight we come to commemorate the death and sacrifice of Christ our beloved savior.

Because Jesus was willing to suffer we can have freedom and eternal life.

As much as possible this evening we should center our minds on the events of Jesus' last hours.

I trust each of us has examined our own lives and hearts.

I trust we are prepared to commemorate Christ's sacrifice.

Let's pray:

Before we observe the feet washing we will have John 13:1-30 read by Bro._____

Jesus washed the tired, dirty feet of his disciples; He told them he gave them this example so they would continue to practice it.

As we wash each other's feet this evening let's focus on three lessons:

1. Spiritual cleansing
2. Humility
3. Service to each other & others

Let's observe the feet washing service together.

Speaking on Ordinances_____

The early church observed the agape meal. It was a meal of love, fellowship, and sharing together.

In the East it is a great honor, and privilege, to prepare and share a meal with a guest.

Eating this meal together symbolizes our oneness as members of Christ's body (the church).

It points us forward to that great day when Christ will gird himself and serve us.

Blessing the meal_____

(Eating the meal)

Return thanks for the meal_____

In order to prepare our hearts & minds for the rest of the service we will have Bro. _____ read John 19 at this time.

(Kiss of charity)

5 times in NT commanded to observe the kiss of love. As we observe this ordinance tonight we should be saying to each other, "I love you. You are my bro./sister. There is no ill feeling between us."

The use of the kiss of love at the love feasts in the early church is well-documented. So it is appropriate for us to practice it now.

(Kiss to Bro— hand to sister)

(Singing is in order)

Pause 'til bread is arranged.

The communion of the bread and the cup shows us, in symbol, the fact that Christ gave his life and shed his blood to provide for our salvation. We often think of:

A backward look, (What Christ did),

An upward look (Through Christ we receive eternal life),

A forward look (1 Cor. 11:26..."As often as you eat this bread & drink this cup you do show the Lord's death 'til he comes."

Bread (Holy bread) Paul says in 1 Cor. 11, "The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, 'take eat, this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me'"

(All communicants stand)

Blessing on bread.

Paul says in 1 Cor. 10, "The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

He was really saying that it is.

So we state: This bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

(Repeat in unison)

Pass to bro./sister

See that all communicants have been served.

Partake of bread (5 pieces, think of its spiritual significance)

(Pause 'til cups & pitchers arranged. Pour into containers, hold two cups.)

Paul says in 1 Cor. 11, "This cup is the new testament in my blood: This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

(All communicants stand for blessing on cup)

Paul says again in 1 Cor. 10,

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?"

Again we say, "This cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ."

(Repeat in unison)

(Hand to bro./sister)

(Singing is in order)

(Have all communicants been served?)

Conclusion

Thanks for allowing me to serve you.

We have observed this love feast in order to help us remember our Lord's death and sacrifice.

We should go forth from this place to serve him.

St. Francis of Assisi wrote the following verse. I think it is appropriate for us to think about as we conclude this love feast.

MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE

LORD, MAKE me an instrument of thy peace;
 where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 and where there is sadness, joy.
 O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled
 as to console;
 to be understood, as to understand;
 to be loved, as to love;
 for it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

At this time we will turn the service over to Bro.

Allen

Prayer	}	Allen
Announcements		

Hymn

Scripture says they sang an hymn, and went out
 into the Mount of Olives.
