

The Lord's Supper Instituted

26 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;

28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'

32 "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

33 But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away."

34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

The Garden of Gethsemane

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?"

41 "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

43 Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44 And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46 "Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

JOHN 12:24-26

24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

In Spanish tradition, on the day of [January 6th](#), three of the Kings: Melchor, Gaspar, and Balthazar, representing Europe, Arabia, and Africa, arrived on horse, camel and elephant, bringing respectively gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. So it's celebrated by gift giving. So I've been led to talk about gifts and giving. So let's see how far I can get off track and still arrive at that place.

In the beginning God put in place gifts for us before he even formed mankind from the clay. Heavens, earth, water, light, sky, land, vegetation, sun, moon, stars, animals and then the breath of life thing.

So here in the garden or should we say 'gift' of Eden we begin. We find humans...spirit beings clothed in flesh...flesh that would not know death.

Human...spirit dwelling in flesh, potentially immortal, loving, giving, receiving, sharing...man God spirit flesh...together. But it turned out that flesh was a stronger taker than a giver taking that which God had denied and refusing to give the simple trust and obedience God had asked for.

God had created a flesh creature, and flesh is inherently needy and greedy and easily deceived and hard to control. Why would a benevolent God create such a creature...inherently flawed...was this the result of careless design?

I don't think so...actually sometimes I do think so but I know that God knew what He was doing...and He always does. Let's look at the design a bit closer.

The spirit and I'm talking about the human spirit...the being at the core of this existence is loving, giving, forgiving, radiant, and seeks to coexist with others like and unlike itself. It is that part of us that Genesis 1:27 refers to when it says "So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" God is not bipedal with a beer gut and a receding hairline.

God is spirit and like Him we are spirit.
But a funny thing happens when you take spirit and wrap it
up in flesh
It gets all...well...wrapped up in flesh
The spirit wants to give but the flesh, needy and greedy is
unwilling to let the spirit shine through.
The spirit has to buff up and grow to shine through the flesh
The flesh continually challenges the spirit throughout its
lifespan
The challenge of the flesh is a necessary part of the growth
of the human spirit
Not a mistake...a training system.
“let your light so shine before men” becomes a mission
statement for life.
But...and this is the big but...the flesh is well up to the
challenge and motivated to boot.
The flesh is temporary and as such is desperate...desperate
to acquire and to sustain itself so desperate that it tricks the
mind into pre-occupation with temporary things while eternal
things pass us by. The mortality of the flesh gives it a
desperation that the spirit doesn't know.
God incarnate himself knew this desperation "My Father, if it
is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as
You will."
Three times Jesus asked His Father for His life...sounds a
bit desperate to me
The flesh speaks...give me life
The spirit speaks...take what you require of me
Life is a battle to see who pulls the strings.
Spirit and flesh strung together.
The immortal radiant being and the ...I like to use the term
...meat puppet...
Uncomfortable sounding I know 'meat puppet' but I like how
it creates a perspective in which the godling pulls the strings
rather than the earthling.

Think about it...a radiant being of amazing virtue and immeasurable worth to God put here by Him to control a lump of flesh raised up from the clay having no intrinsic value and destined to return to the ground from which it came.

You probably don't like the term meat puppet because it lacks nobility.

We want to adorn the flesh..don't we?

Comb my hair, brush my teeth, a little breath spray

Suck in...straighten up the package a bit

Maintain the nobility

Deny the mortality

I am a noble being...I have opposable thumbs

Color the hair...put on makeup

"I wouldn't be caught dead in that dress"

We put makeup on dead people...how ludicrous is that.

Pretty pretty puppet broken strings though

Don't he look natural...

I want to be buried in clown makeup

Flickering LED nose

Hump at the end of the coffin for the big clown shoes

Holding a big lily that squirts people if they come close enough

I certainly don't want a funeral that's all dismal and depressing like the Bush administration.

I want it to be like a Space Shuttle launch...a successful space shuttle launch.

If I cry at your funeral I pray that I cry tears of joy at a successful launch.

But here we are today all wrapped up in the challenge.

Same as it was in a garden in Eden and in another garden called Gethsemane. Jesus spoke of the our weakness in the face of flesh to His apostles and a few minutes later rather than soaring on wings of eagles they were running on legs of

chickens...there's something poetic about the cock crowing
...calling out to his kind. The apostles wanted to live.

Jesus wanted to live too but he wanted to obey even more.

We want to live!

Hold on to life

Seize the day

Grab life by the throat

Take life one day at a time

Suck out the marrow of life

Seize...grab...take...suck

Seize...grab...take...suck

Hold on...hold on...hold...on

God is Love

And the same spirit he created in you is a spirit of love

And love doesn't do this this hands grabbing

Love does this

And when you offer in spirit and in love what the flesh would
hold back

You then have yourself as my friend bill would say "a hand
full of empty"

John 12:25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the
man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

When you get you a hand full of empty Papa's gonna fill you
up.

When in spirit and truth you give yourself to the Lord seeking
His will be done

Your hands will be ready to receive the real gift of what He
has in store for you and know this... your cupped hands
won't be enough to receive it.

Now when you get a glimpse of what this really is it changes
everything

Suddenly you are no longer at home in your flesh afraid of what's on the other side of the door. You realize that your home...our home is on the other side of the door with our Lord and Saviour and Master.

Jesus at Gethsemane offered his flesh and his blood to set right what had happened so long ago in Eden and in obedience to him we commemorate his gift
Today.

Special music:

My eyes are dry, My faith is old
My heart is hard, My prayers are cold
And I know how I'm meant to be
Alive to you and dead to me

Oh, what can be done
With an old heart like mine
Soften it up with oil and wine
The oil is you
Your spirit of truth
Please wash me anew
In the wine of your blood