

Lenten Sermon Series: Communion and Missions

This six-part sermon series was part of a DMIN project on Communion and Missions. Due to the timing of the project, the series started on the 3rd Sunday of Lent and concluded on the second Sunday after Easter. The series introduced a United Methodist congregation to the weekly celebration of Communion. As a result of this series, the congregation has included Communion as part of their weekly worship celebration for the last eight years and counting. This series can be used at any time for a worship series or as a Bible Study. The order of the sermons is also flexible.

First Sunday**Exodus 16:1-5, 11-18, 31-32****Sermon Title: What Is It?**

- An introduction to the series
- Lessons learned about God's provisions - to teach about, to trust in, and to know God
- Manna was a remembrance, reminder, and foretaste
- Communion is a remembrance, reminder, and foretaste
- Manna and the Eucharist helps God's people to recognize that God is with us
- Healthy worship diet includes the Eucharist - it is a fundamental that needs to be practiced over and over again
- It's the sustaining, nourishing food God provides

Second Sunday**John 6:35, 41-51****Sermon Title: Recommended Daily Requirements**

- Quest for healthier eating habits - in the spiritual life
- We have a great hunger for Christ's presence
- Jesus: I am the bread of life - he will provide, nourish
- Go against the tradition (monthly Communion) to draw closer to God
- When skipping physical meal one gets hungry - spiritual food is necessary too - we don't want to leave here hungry
- Receive Christ in our hearts with faith and thanksgiving
- Reminds us of his presence with us

Third Sunday**Luke 14:15-23****Sermon Title: There is Room at the Table**

- Too many excuses that stem from playing it safe
- Excuses reveal our true priorities
- Parable of opportunities missed - God's party will go on
- Don't miss the party, don't miss what God is doing in our lives
- It is an open invitation - inclusive of all - it is Christ's invitation to his Table
- Time around the table, around a meal is a great place to grow and learn

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Fourth Sunday

Mark 6:30-44

Sermon Title: Opportunities From the Table

- Jesus' instruction to disciples - "You give them something to eat" is also our instruction
- No excuses - Jesus: "Don't tell me what you don't have, tell me what you do have."
- When bread is blessed and broken it is given to disciples to distribute
- We too are sent from the Table
- There is an abundance of grace and we are called upon to be instruments of that grace
- Our responsibility when sent from the table, to feed and serve

Fifth Sunday

Luke 24:13-35

Sermon Title: At Table with Jesus

- Resurrection changed disciples' perspective -
- For some it took being at table with Christ to recognize
- 1st thing they did was go and tell
- Changes us too - no longer face fears, stress, anxieties alone
- When we are at the table and recognize the risen Christ we too are compelled to go and tell - sends us out in mission
- We are sent knowing Christ goes before us

Sixth Sunday

John 21:1-19

Sermon Title: It's Not Business as Usual

- Resurrection is not the end of the story (John 20)
- Call is to show love for Christ by what we do - work continues through us
- Not just Sunday, but everyday - mission is to care for people
- Work of Christ is now the work of the church - examples in local church
- Jesus suggests that they do things differently (cast nets on other side) - don't be stuck in old routines, try something new
- Risen Christ nourishes and strengthens us to continue to do this work
- Challenges us beyond routines
- Reminder that church does not exist for itself, but to do Christ's work in the world
- For that we need nourishment of Communion every week

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