

March 23rd – Sermon notes

Introduction:

Communion Sunday is a time to reflect on Jesus' love demonstrated on the cross and to appreciate the life He purchased with His blood. Think of this message as a collage or kaleidoscope, presents a series of "paintings" capturing different truths.

Painting 1

Real faith thrives on honesty, not platitudes. Truth reveals “what is”—flaws and all—and draws us closer to God. In times of struggle, the prayer “Lord, I surrender to Your love, not my fears” reflects the daily journey of trust. God’s response reminds us, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD” (Jeremiah 17:7-8), as He works a new thing in our lives. The conclusion echoes this commitment: “Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always” (Psalm 105:4 NIV).

Painting 2

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NASB77).

“It is finished” (John 19:30) marked the completion of Jesus' redemptive work. It signifies the payment for sin and the beginning of a relationship with God as His sons and daughters. Jesus' mission didn't end at the cross but includes His resurrection, ascension, and promised return.

Painting 3

Eternal life comes with rich accessories.

“The Holy Spirit” (John 14:26 NIV).

Fellowship within the body of Christ that builds itself up in love.

A reservation in heaven: “Every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9 NIV).

Equality in Christ: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28 NASB77).

Universal inclusion: “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13 NASB77).

Painting 4

[Video: “This I Pray”]

Maturity in faith comes from grasping God’s immense love for us, which then radiates outward to others. Sincere faith, not specific words, is what matters when calling on the Lord, as seen in the criminal’s plea on the cross: “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom” (Luke 23:42).

The Final Painting

Jesus’ sacrifice is the ultimate proof of His love: “I love you, and here is my proof.”
Communion reaffirms faith in His love (bread) and the power of His blood to forgive sin and secure eternal favor with God (cup).

The bread symbolizes faith in His love: “I love you, and here is my proof.”

The cup affirms His blood as the remedy for sin: “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:27-28 NASB77).

“Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11 NIV).