

# **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

## **I. Introduction**

A. Acts 2:42 (AMP) Let's stand and read together:

“And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles, to the breaking of bread [including the Lord's Supper] and prayers.”

B. What is the best meal you ever had? Think for a moment about the best meal that you ever had... Now, I'm not talking about some pizza or cheesesteak. As much as I love that stuff - think of the entire meal - the best meal you ever had.

1. What made up that meal? Environment around you, service, quality of ingredients, combination of flavors, nutritional value, who you were with, the occasion for the meal, and so on.
2. I remember a trip to Le Bec Fin - which used to be one of the finest restaurants in the country. One of only 17 restaurants in the country rated 5 stars at it's prime! We were going for my grandmothers 80th birthday surprise. About 10 years ago and I can vividly remember where I sat, who we were with, how good the food was, etc. I remember having to be dressed a certain way, and the exceptional service at the restaurant. We even road down in a limo, which happened to be the first time I was in a limousine - further enhancing the memories! I've had some great meals since then - my brother works with a celebrity chef in San Francisco, so between his cooking and recommendations over the last five years, we've had some pretty awesome meals! But none of them stand out to me like that meal at Le Bec Fin... What's the best meal you ever had?
3. As great and as memorable that meal was, I want to talk today about the most important meal you and I will ever have on this side of eternity - It's a meal in which Christ is both the host and the feast, a meal in which Jesus invites his church to come in unity to the table of the Kingdom - (Violet Schoonmaker - AG missionary to India - 1964) “to gather around the cross of our Lord... where we bring our sins and find pardon; our sickness and find healing; our weariness and find rest. Burdens roll away, fears vanish, and night becomes day!” It's a meal in which we remember, proclaim, and participate! In this meal our nourishment is not flesh and blood, but Spiritual by faith. The meal not only looks back to the past, but declares our victory in the future! This is truly the greatest meal you and I will ever have! This is The Lord's Supper!

C. Recap on Worship Series - Let's look back at what we've spoke about already...

1. Why are you talking about this in a worship series? Am I off my rocker? Maybe you are saying, “Pastor Alex, will you get back to talking about worship!” I believe He wants to break us of the habit of equating worship mainly with what happens here on Sunday mornings!

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

2. What does this have to do with worship? You might have noticed that The Lord's Supper is never called worship in the New Testament and the gathering of the church where it happens was never called worship! Remember, we are after how God wants to be worshipped - not something based off our preferences or experiences!
  - a) In addition, let's remember: True worship starts and ends with Jesus! It's a heart attitude based on the truth of who Jesus is being revealed to us by the Holy Spirit! Essentially worship is the inner experience of treasuring the true beauty and worth of God, and the outward forms of worship are that acts that demonstrate how much we treasure the beauty and worth of God!
  - b) The Lord's Supper is one of those external acts! Yet the beauty of it is that as we participate in it, we grow in the truth of the beauty and worth of God! In this meal our transformation from glory to glory comes alive:

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

### **II. So, Why Preach on The Lord's Supper?**

A. One of the most important expressions/acts of corporate worship in the New Testament!

1. The first reason we should preach on this is that Jesus himself commanded for His church to perform two ordinances - baptism and The Lord's Supper.
  - a) *"In water baptism, we individually identify with Christ's death and resurrection. But at the Lord's table, the entire community focus on the Cross and the empty tomb. In this act, the history of redemption is affirmed by the congregation, and the congregation is affirmed by the Agent of that history."*  
AG Website
2. The second reason we should preach on it is because, The Lord's supper binds the Christian community together around the central truths of Christianity - the Cross and the Resurrection - and points to all of history culminating in a final supper in which we will enjoy fellowship with Jesus forever - the Marriage Supper of the lamb (Revelation 19:6-9). We'll look more into this, but The Lord's Supper is a supreme act of corporate worship.

B. Finally, we must preach on this because The Lord's Supper is rooted in history - both Biblically and throughout church history.

1. OT Biblical History - Passover - the celebration feast of God delivering Israel from Egypt.

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

2. NT Biblical History - The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all report the Last Supper. The Gospel of John doesn't cover the actual meal, but reports on the teachings and actions that occurred that evening.
  - a) The earliest church did what Jesus said, they reenacted that supper in remembrance of Jesus and his death.
  - b) 1 Corinthians 11:20 - Paul's letters the earliest testimony. Called the Lord's Supper probably because it was instituted or ordained by the Lord Jesus.
  - c) Acts 2:42 - "Breaking of Bread" distinguished from fellowship indicated two different meals. Also seen in Acts 20:7
3. Not only did the Biblical Christian Community find it important, but it was continued on in the church - First century church likely came to the Lord's Table weekly. Their worship services centered on four main things: teaching, sharing (in common - fellowship, financial giving, etc), breaking bread and praying together as seen in Acts 2:42.
  - a) There was even a time in church history where this doctrine was so important it was worth dying for, and some thought, worthy killing for. From 1555-1558 during the reign of Bloody Queen Mary), 288 protestant reformers were burned at the stake, all over the meaning of the Lord's Supper. The Roman Catholic governed nation saw any attack on Roman Catholic doctrine as an attack on the crown. This was a very important matter!

Let me stop here and clarify something... There are four views about what is happening in the Lord's Supper:

- (1) Catholic View - Transubstantiation - the elements literally, actually, become the body and blood of Christ. Eating the transubstantiated bread and drinking this transubstantiated wine brings saving grace to the soul. So in some sense, Jesus is getting re-crucified every mass by the priest, it's like a funeral. In addition the actual event carries grace for the forgiveness of sins.
  - (a) Why this view doesn't work: Quite simply, if I were to show you this picture and say "this is my family," is that really my family? No, it's a image, picture, representation of my family. This image on my phone did not become my family! Or if we point to an actor of a Civil War reenactment and say, "that's Abraham Lincoln." Jesus is clearly speaking figurative language.
  - (b) In verse 1 Cor 11:25 Jesus says, "This cups is the new covenant." Does that mean the cup has turned into a covenant? We all agree that

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

the cup stands for it's contents, and the blood secures or purchases the blessings of the covenant!

(c) Then in John 6:35, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." Here eating and drinking simply refer to spiritual acts of the soul.

(2) Lutheran View - Consubstantiation - bread and wine don't cease to be bread and wine, but that the real, literal presence of the physical body and blood of Christ is present along with the natural elements when they are consecrated in worship. So, there's sort of a mysterious presence of Jesus surrounding the elements, though it's not his actual, physical body and blood.

(3) Huldrych Zwingli - basically a memorial feast - where he says, "it's not Jesus' literal body and blood. He's not physically or even spiritually present. It's a memorial feast. It's a remembrance. It's a looking back. It signifies." He argued John 6:63, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."

(4) John Calvin - Calvin aligned himself with Zwingli, but added that Christ was present in and through the work of the Holy Spirit at The Lord's Supper. The Holy Spirit is the bond of the believer's union with Christ. Therefore that which the minister does on the earthly plane, the Holy Spirit accomplishes on the spiritual plane.

(a) Pentecostal View - AG Statement: The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements --bread and the fruit of the vine-- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of his suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

(b) Interesting use of the verb "give thanks," or eucharisteo - which is where the word Eucharist comes from. It's the same word used in 1 Corinthians 14:17 (NKJV) - "For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified." The same word Jesus used at the institution of the Lord's Supper. This is an important connection between the Holy Spirit's activity in the gifts and in the Lord's Supper.

4. However, as evangelical Christians it might not seem that The Lord's Supper is as central to our worship as say our Lutheran or Catholic brothers and sisters. However, there is no doubt that in the early church that the preaching of the word and the partaking of communion were the central elements of the worship service. Wow, did the worship pastor just say that??? \*This doesn't mean that

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

music, singing, prayer, and the spiritual gifts weren't important - we'll look at that another time!

a) Those of you who have been around the church long enough might remember a time when the communion table and pulpit were centrally located. I grew up in a church that had the communion table (with elements) at the center of the platform with the words, "This do in remembrance of me." We also had an empty cross centrally located. This physically represented the centrality of the cross, the Lord's Supper and the preaching of the word to our theology.

C. What's your background? Maybe you have seen it as a tired old tradition, or a strange exercise of religion, or maybe you have genuinely tried to understand it - what is it with this church on the first Sunday of every month... Why the little crackers and grape juice shots? Regardless of your experiences and perceptions, the main point here before we move forward: The Lord's Supper has been and must continue to be extremely important to the Christian faith both individually and corporately. Let no one say, "What's the big deal?" Rather we must humble ourselves and pray that we never lose the weight and wonder of the very ordinances Christ Jesus gave us!

### **III. Three Major Truths:**

A. The Lord's Supper is About Remembrance! What then are we remembering? "Do this in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:24,25 - Twice the word remembrance is seen - in reference to cup and to the bread.

1. It's about remembering Jesus! Jesus gave us this simple supper to keep him in memory! We are remembering that Jesus is the most valuable person in the universe. Oh the wisdom of Jesus, that he would give us something that connected to our senses! Do you have anything maybe from a loved one that passed, that when you see it, smell it, touch it, hear it, that it puts you back in your mind as if you were experiencing it again? Today we are blessed to have photos and videos and we can so easily go back and experience something again. But think of the wisdom of Jesus to ordain this act of remembrance around a meal - something that could be done for generations! Something that doesn't become outdated!
2. The Greek word used is not easily translated into English - it is better translated "a remembering, recollection to call me (affectionately) to remembrance. It's more than just a memorial - we are affectionately calling the person of Jesus to our mind.
  - a) It's as if Jesus was saying, "remember me sitting with you in fellowship, betrayed willingly, giving thanks to my Father who planned it all, breaking the symbol of my body, pouring out my blood, sealing the new covenant, singing

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

- with you that last song, crying in Gethsemane, and so on.” There is so much to recall into memory!
3. Remembering the actual historical event of the cross. Christianity isn't some new-age spirituality. This is important in our times that are intrigued by “spiritual” things! We aren't getting in touch with our inner beings and this isn't about mysticism. This is about consciously directing our mind back into history to Jesus and what we know about Him from the Bible (not imagining, dreaming, channeling, listening, going into neutral). It's about remembering that Jesus lived! He had a body and a heart that pumped blood and skin that bled. He died a public death on a Roman cross in the place of sinners so that all who believe in him might be saved, rescued from the wrath of God. This was a once and for all historical event! The Lord's Supper roots us in history - it's something that has been done by generations. It connects us to the story of Jesus throughout history and reminds us our life isn't just about me, my problems, my struggles, my future! Don't we need that today! It's all too much about us!
  4. Not just about remembering an event in the past though, it's a reminder that God's promises are really true RIGHT NOW because Christ's death for your sins is as real as the bread you taste and the cup you drink!

### **B. The Lord's Supper is About Proclamation**

1. Proclaiming the gospel - his death AND resurrection! Isn't this the progression of worship we've spoken about before? The truth of Jesus revealed as we remember, and that inner remembering breaking out in proclamation of what we remember!
2. Looks to eternity - until he comes! It's a table of prophecy - pointing to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-10), when we get to celebrate and dine with Him! This is a celebration of the entire gospel of the Kingdom! When we come to this table we are telling the world and each other that this is not the final meal! This is but a tiny appetizer and that the main event is still to come! Who we are is not who we will be! This reminds us that Jesus has a plan. He can see the end from the beginning, and oh how we need to remember that often! This is GOOD NEWS!
  - a) Do we come to this table with hope? Or is this a funeral? The proclamation here is that the end of sin and suffering is on the horizon! I get tired of sin, the sting of death, suffering, our problems! Don't you? I live five minutes down church road, and I can't make that drive without some reminder of sin and suffering! Whether it's some jerk driver, rage flaring up in me, or the apartment complex that was burnt down - the effects of sin and suffering are all around us. But this table reminds us that Jesus is coming back and He has such a party for us!! This is our hope!

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

3. Story of hope and thanksgiving! It's not just a solemn event. 1 Corinthians 11:24 "When he had given thanks..." This is where the term The Eucharist come from - from the greek word to "give thanks." How could Jesus be thankful for His broken body and bloody death? Think about that - Jesus holding what would come to symbolize his death, and he gives thanks to the Father! Jesus had confidence in the resurrection! So must we and as we proclaim his death and resurrection, we look to His return with confidence and thanksgiving!
4. One caution here is that in proclaiming and looking forward "until he comes" we are protected from this just being a memorial event. You see, it's not just about looking back at the "good old days"! Must be careful about sentimentalism and nostalgia, which becomes a service to us instead of God. Nostalgia is a longing for days that are gone - it's not good eschatological thinking - it says the best days are behind us. This table says the best days our still ahead. No matter what you are facing, no matter how bad the effects of sin and suffering are, our best days are yet to come!!

### **C. The Lord's Supper is About Participation**

1. 1 Corinthians 10:16 (ESV) - "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" - The word participation here is the Greek word, Koinonia, meaning fellowship, communion, sharing. This is where we get the term communion from. But, this is much more than a deep remembering or proclamation. Paul is telling us that we are experiencing a sharing in his body and blood, a partnership in his death! Its more than just mental but not some weird physical thing (as in transubstantiation). It's spiritual through faith by the Holy Spirit.
2. As we come in faith by the Holy Spirit to share and participate in this table with Christ we savor the New Covenant - We feast on all the promises of God bought by the blood of Jesus - Jeremiah 33. I don't have time this morning to flesh this out, but listen to the promises of God in the new covenant as found in

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NLT): "31 "The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. 32 This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord. 33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "[first promise] I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. [second promise] I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 [third promise] And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the Lord. [fourth promise] "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

their sins.”

3. This is what the blood of Jesus has purchased for us! As we partake this morning we live by faith that our sins are forgiven. The will of God, the law of God, becomes increasingly our delight, we get to know him personally, and he is our God! These are the promises we get to savor when we partake! The new covenant is not just a one-time historical event. Jesus wants us to taste the sweetness of the new covenant and savor its pardoning and purifying power in our lives!

### IV. Two Calls of the Lord's Supper:

#### **A. A Call to Love**

1. *1 Corinthians 11:17-22 (Message): 17-19 Regarding this next item, I'm not at all pleased. I am getting the picture that when you meet together it brings out your worst side instead of your best! First, I get this report on your divisiveness, competing with and criticizing each other. I'm reluctant to believe it, but there it is. The best that can be said for it is that the testing process will bring truth into the open and confirm it. 20-22 And then I find that you bring your divisions to worship — you come together, and instead of eating the Lord's Supper, you bring in a lot of food from the outside and make pigs of yourselves. Some are left out, and go home hungry. Others have to be carried out, too drunk to walk. I can't believe it! Don't you have your own homes to eat and drink in? Why would you stoop to desecrating God's church? Why would you actually shame God's poor? I never would have believed you would stoop to this. And I'm not going to stand by and say nothing.*
  - a) The Lord's Supper is not just an individual, isolated religious ritual, it is a call to love and it's an indictment of lovelessness - Surrounding this instruction about The Lord's Supper is this issue of factionalism - this selfish and divisive behavior of Christians when they come together for the Lord's Supper. The supper was being turned into one of gluttony, drunkenness and partiality. They were shaming the poor and despising the church! Paul is very upset about this. Here we see the importance of unity in the church surrounding the Lord's Supper. This is a call to love the church and to love each other!
  - b) Heart for the poor - imbedded in this celebration is Jesus' heart for the poor. I find it fascinating that this at the core of communion, the first and second commandments shine brightly!
2. “Coming together” - five times in 1 Corinthians 11, Paul speaks of the church “coming together.” This is a public act of worship by the gathered church! Mean't to be done in community. \*Think about how powerful this could be in the context of your life group (as we move that direction more as a church)...

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

3. The Lord's Supper is symbol of unity as we partake of one body and one cup - the community of faith cemented together by the gospel. This act of covenant binds us together. When we partake we are re-establishing our covenant with both God and man! You are declaring that you are willing to live in love. "I am living in the fullness of life you have for me God and the fullness of life with others!"
4. As we come this morning we are calling each other to a different kind of community. One that isn't destroyed by petty conflict or disagreement. As we come to this table together, we are called to understand this is the table of a kingdom, and we are called to recognize the presence of the King - not so much in the elements themselves, but in the very body he has called together, a body of sinners like us! What a powerful understanding of true kingdom fellowship!
  - a) *"Perhaps if our churches intentionally recovered the communitarian focus of the Lord's Supper, we might have less and less need for professional conflict resolution experts called in to consult with us on how to overcome our divisions. After all, for Jesus and for the Apostle Paul, the starting point for unity in the church, and for sanctification of the Body together, was a common gospel and a common table. It could be again." - Dr. Russell Moore - Southern Baptist Ordained Minister & President of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission*

### **B. A Call to Self-Examination**

1. Paul calls us to examine ourselves. 1 Corinthians 11:27-28 (ESV): "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup."
  - a) What does "unworthy manner" refer to? How about we ask what it means to eat the Lord's Supper worthily:
    - (1) Do you understand what the bread and cup signify - that Christ loves the church and gave himself for her?
    - (2) Do you hate sin? Feel remorse - feel bad - when your attitudes and actions are inconsistent with the love of Christ?
    - (3) Are we waging war against those things? Taking responsibility for it? Renouncing our sinful attitudes? Not just blaming my wife for making me angry, but every time anger starts rising up in me I am waging war against it and looking for the Holy Spirit to help! What about this one guys - are we blaming the ladies for how they dress, or are we rising up and waging war against lust and the spirit of adultery!

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

(a) Romans 4:9 (NIV) - "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."

(4) Do you trust Jesus for forgiveness of these bad attitudes and actions and for empowerment by the Holy Spirit to walk again in love?

2. Cleansing agent for the body of Christ - With this beautiful understanding of communion comes the responsibility. The responsibility to keep our conscious clear before God and before man.

3. But let's remember there are no perfect saints at the Lord's table. We are all sinners and forgiveness is our only hope of acceptance! But let's be careful to remember that forgiveness and grace does not mean there is no fatherly discipline:

a) 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 (ESV) - "For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died. But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world."

b) Wow - this is sobering! Weakness, sickness and even death can be God's judgement - but not condemnation (remember there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus - Romans 8:1). See, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned to hell along with the world. So, it's very possible that our illness, weakness, and even death is God's grace! It's an act of mercy from our loving Father! We often have lapses, seasons of lovelessness - seasons of apathy and complacency. God sees where we are heading and it might be that an illness or death is the rescue needed! If you have kids you can relate to this - there are times when we can be gentle and tender with our instructions, but there are times when we must be tough and come crashing in to prevent serious damage!

4. As we move toward the table this morning, how is your heart? How is your love toward God and toward His church? Let's examine ourselves and be careful not to take this table lightly. Jesus calls us to come and remember, proclaim and participate. In doing so we bind ourselves together, we join in the greatest story. Ian Morgan Cron, author, speaker and Episcopal Priest, puts it this way:

a) In telling our common story together we re-narrate the world. We live in a world of so many narratives that try to explain the way the world is. And all of them are smaller than the greatest story! Any time you attach your life to a story lesser than the gospel, you are at best dehumanizing your self in some way, and at worst you are doing egregious damage to your own soul... When

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

we gather around that central expression and picture of the Christ life, you are participating in a mystery that is so profound, yet so simple. A life broken, a people poured out... And when we get up to partake in this meal, we are declaring to a community that our primary citizenship is not outside the doors of this building, but it's right here at this table, and that you are my fellow citizens.

### **V. Partaking of The Lord's Supper**

A. Some logistics this morning:

1. We will partake this morning via the ancient method of intinction. Communion represents a gift given to us by God - we will respond to that gift by coming forward, by taking a step of faith out of our seats, for this is truly an act of worship.
  - a) Remember our definition of worship from last time - a willing response of our spirit to the revelation of the Character of God by the moving of His Spirit in our hearts! As this Holy Spirit reveals to us what this table represents, we now have the opportunity to respond, both spiritually in our hearts and in action!
2. We will be served by members of our body and by coming together we stand with other Christians around the world both living and those who have gone on to glory! In taking from the one loaf and one cup we are further symbolizing our unity - that we are one body, one family, and that one blood line, the blood of Christ, joins us together!

When you come you'll be given a piece of bread, simply dip that in the cup and partake. You may then kneel at the altar or go back to your seat and join us in worship. Please if you need to take a few minutes to prepare before coming, you may do so this morning.

- a) *One of the things I am most grateful for is that we belong to a fellowship that does not get caught up in fights about form, mode and methods. We aren't stuck on one way of doing things, but open to the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and direct us! I toiled over this decision most of the week mainly because, now hear my heart church, I don't want this to be about the elements themselves (wine or grape juice, leavened or unleavened bread) or about the method. I don't want unnecessary focus placed on the method! This is about whom the elements and method point, Jesus! That's what happened to the church in Corinth. It became about the meal, and about serving themselves! Paul emphasized, not the elements and form itself, but the manner in which we come, the posture of our hearts before God and before each other! Jesus never commanded a specific method, but only that we remember, proclaim*

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

*and participate!*

3. Open Table - the communion table belongs to Jesus and all who wish to follow him are welcome to come and commune. Only requirement is that you trust in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of sins and intend to follow him as Lord! Prayer of Salvation.
  4. People who cannot come forward- we will get to you, when you see the servers going around, raise your hand if you'd like to be served.
  5. We even have gluten free bread available this morning. Simply ask the servers and they will accommodate you.
- B. We come now to remember, proclaim and participate. Let's watch this VIDEO - Francis Chan <http://youtu.be/4Z3BNBem0xA>
- C. Let's stand together. Before we move into partaking I'd like to walk us through a series of Biblical and historical readings. These declarations and responsive readings have been part of the Lord's Table in various Christian communities over the last two thousand years and are often called The Great Thanksgiving. When instructed on the screen, please read:
1. The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
  2. It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
  3. **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

4. Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit.  
When the Lord Jesus ascended he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.
  
5. Take bread - On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."
  
6. Take cup and pour - Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you,  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
  
7. And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
  
8. **Christ has died;**  
**Christ is risen;**  
**Christ will come again.**
  
9. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and juice.  
Make them be for us a participation in the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,

## **The Worship Series - The Most Important Meal You Will Ever Have**

Pastor Alex Kranjec

---

and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
by your Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father,  
now and forever.

10. And now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

11. O God, today you have called us together to be the church. Unite us now at your table. Because there is one loaf, we, though we be many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break, it is a means of sharing in the body of Christ! And the cup over which we give thanks, it is a means of sharing in the outpoured blood of Christ! Come to the table friends, come and receive, come and give!