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The Sacrament of the Lord's supper gives us that moments in all our experience when we are most truly the people of God.

1. Above all the service is an en-actment of the gospel. It is, in the least, a portrayal of the fact that God in Christ comes to us, and by his sacrificial death has made redemption and reconciliation possible.

The Bible describes this gospel, sermons become, at times, rather wordy about it. But the Sacrament of the Lord's supper dramatizes it. Here we re-enact the essentialness of the gospel. John Calvin called the sacrament "The Word made visible".

2. We also become most truly the people of God for by partaking of the elements, we indicate that we wish Christ to dwell in us. At other times we may talk about our faith, we may discuss the reality of the indwelling Christ. . . but here we act out our faith. As we take the bread and wine into our physical bodies, we are indicating by that action our wish that Christ enter into us. And the sacrament itself is the promise of God that he will enter us . . . to dwell in our hearts by faith. And we are joined, united, with God.

3. Not only are we joined with him . . . we are also united in a new and vital way with our fellow believers. The New Testament calls this union of believers Koinonia or fellowship. Here fellowship is most real. We are not just individuals before God, though we are that, we are a community united together before God. This is the communion of saints.

Not only are we united with those around us in this particular place we are united with all the faithful in heaven and earth. We are not simply a present company praising God; we join a perpetual chorus praising God.

At other times we may speak of the fellowship of Christians, we may participate in fellowship groups . . . but here at the table of the Lord . . . we act out the reality of that fellowship. For in the mystery of the sacrament, if for no other reason, we have let down the masks, have forgotten the grudges, and we feel truly at one with one another.

In these moments we become truly the people of God, for we re-enact the gospel, we accept by faith Christ into our lives, and we are united ~~with~~ in fellowship with the people of God.

4. That brings us to a concluding thought about

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the sacrament. The service underlies the significance of everyday life. Often we think of a holy act of worship as something removed from everyday life. Not so here.

We bring bread and wine; god's gifts in the first place, the symbols of our earthly toil, and we get back Christ.

God has always used common things as channels of his revelation. The act of eating makes Christ more real than a stained glass window. The act of drinking can make God more real than a fifty voiced robed choir. There is nothing ordinary to be used by him. All life is sacred and holy.