

Catechetical Sermon, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Belgic Confession, Article 35, “The Lord’s Supper”**

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 26:17–30

<b>Lesson Aim</b>	To understand three things: First, the Old Testament background of the Passover related to the institution of the Lord’s Supper, second, how Jesus fulfills and advances the Passover meal and third, how the church continues to obey Christ in the institution of the Lord’s Supper.
<b>Steps to Learning</b>	Read <a href="#">Belgic Confession, Article 35</a> and <a href="#">Matthew 26:17-30</a> . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
<b>Discuss</b>	<p><b>Where in the Old Testament do we read about the institution of the Passover meal and the meal of Unleavened Bread and what was the significance of these meals?</b> <a href="#">Exodus chapters 12 and 13</a> record the institution of these meals. These meals commemorated the passing over of God’s wrath on the households that had the blood of lambs applied to the lintels and doorpost of Israelite households. This meal signified the necessity of the atonement of sins through the shedding of blood, which pointed to the atonement of our sins by the blood of Christ at the cross.</p> <p><b>How does the institution of the Lord’s Supper by Jesus fulfill the Passover meal?</b> Jesus breaks bread and offers wine as the fulfillment of the Passover meal. The bread is his body and the wine is his blood, which is sacramental language used to denote the saving benefits of his death on the cross. Also, Jesus comforts his disciples and us with the hope that they and us will be with him forever in heaven partaking of heavenly wine. Jesus says, “I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.”</p> <p><b>What is it for us to celebrate the Lord’s Supper every Sunday in divine worship?</b> When the church gathers to celebrate the Lord’s Supper it is much more than a remembrance – it is a meal in which Christ is present and this meal provides strength to us. As we partake of the meal by faith, Christ nourishes our faith by reminding us that our sins are forgiven through Christ alone!</p>
<b>Bible Reading</b>	<a href="#">Nehemiah 8-13</a> [The exiles return to the Promised Land and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem] (covering the great Bible stories)