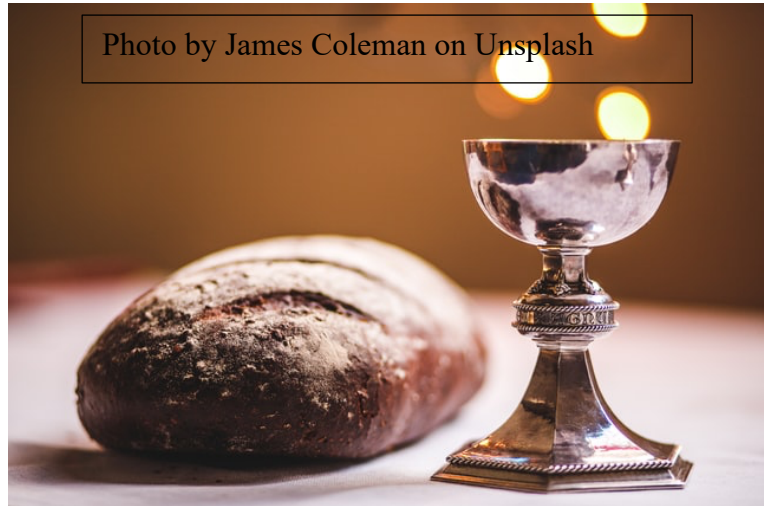


## Some entry points into the Eucharist

**Mark 14.22-25:** While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'



**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**<sup>1</sup>: Ever since Jesus Christ sat at table with his disciples, the table fellowship of his community has been blessed by his presence. "And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him" (Luke 24:30-31)

...

To know Jesus Christ in the presence of these gifts—what does this mean?

It means, first, to know him as the giver of all gifts, as the Lord and Creator of this our world, with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Second, the fellowship acknowledges that all earthly gifts are given to it only for Christ's sake, as this whole world is sustained only for the sake of Jesus Christ, his Word and his message. He is the true bread of life. He is not only the giver but the gift itself, for whose sake all earthly gifts exist.

Third, the congregation of Jesus believes that its Lord wills to be present when it prays for his presence. Every mealtime fills Christians with gratitude for the living, presence Lord and God, Jesus Christ.

The fellowship of the table has a festive quality. It is a constantly recurring reminder in the midst of our everyday work of God's resting after His work, of the Sabbath as the meaning and goal of the week and its toil. Our life is not only travail and labour, it is also refreshment and joy in the goodness of God. We labour, but God nourished and sustains us. And this is reason for celebrating.

The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is our daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dietrich Bonhoeffer "The Fellowship of the Table"  
Excerpts from *Life Together*, p. 66-69

