

**Put to Death In the
Flesh, But Made
Alive in the Spirit**



**1 Peter
3:13-22**



Living a Sacramental Life

What is a Sacrament?

Sacraments are outward signs of inward grace, instituted by Christ for our sanctification

Communion and Baptism

Matthew 26:26 - 29 (NIV) ²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” ²⁷Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Matthew 28:16 - Mark 1:1 (NIV) ¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” ¹The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

All Believers

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ^{NRS}

John 14:12

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ^{NRS}

Acts 1:8



How Do We Live A Sacramental Life?

**We Become Living Breathing (outward)
Testimonies to God's Grace**

We see our lives within the flow of God's story. We share aspects of our story, as our stories are effected by God's grace. We therefore, invite others to step into God's story, recognizing God's grace as in their lives as well.

A Believers Testimony

The Testimony of Doing Right, and Being Blessed

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 3:13-14a

The Testimony of Fearlessness

Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.



1 Peter 3:14a-15a

Fear is almost always based on concern over the possibility of loss.

However, hearts that have sanctified Christ as Lord cannot lose anything of eternal significance, because we have already gained all things in Christ our Lord, and these things cannot be taken away.

The Testimony of Gentleness and Reverence

**Always be ready to make your
defense to anyone who demands
from you an accounting for the hope
that is in you; yet do it with
gentleness and reverence. ^{NRS}**

1 Peter 3:15b-16a

The sacramental life is not based on a hope in some future heavenly existence, but in the joy of each present moment lived in the conscious realization that God is present, in the here and now. It is this recognition of God's active presence in our lives that becomes the heart of our testimony

The Testimony of a Good Conscience

Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 3:16b-17

Victory in Christ

Christ's Suffering Brings Us to God

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ^{NRS}

1 Peter 3:18

So, We Express Our Gratitude



**The Great
Thanksgiving**

**Christ's Body Broken
for Us**

**The Blood of Christ
Poured Out for Us**

Why Do We Celebrate Communion?

To Remember

**To live united in the presence of the Lord
Jesus Christ, who is with us.**

To recognize God's presence.

**To receive spiritual nourishment, that by
God's grace brings about spiritual healing!**

The Spiritual Journey Can Be Long and Is Often Difficult

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ^{NRS}

Hebrews 12:1

**In terms of physical nourishment ,
coming to the altar to receive a
small piece of bread and a sip of
wine or grape juice does very little,
if anything, for us. But received as
spiritual nourishment, it is “the
health of the soul and body, the
cure of every spiritual malady.**

David DeSilva, “The Sacramental Life”

Spiritual directors (including John Wesley) have consistently recommended the “frequent receiving” of Communion as one of the most effective means of growing in grace, because in it we encounter the Lord Jesus

Christ's Victory Proclaimed to Disobedient Spirits

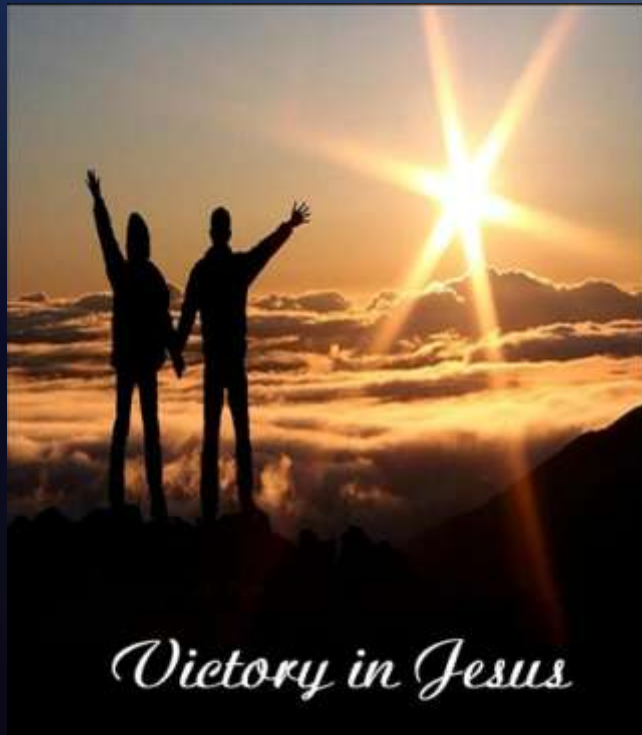
...in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 19-20

God Waited Patiently in the Days of Noah

**God wanted the rebellious and the disobedient to repent. God was patient and God waited and waited and waited (From the time of Adam until the time of Noah).
But they did not repent.**

This is an announcement to all evil that their world has been ravaged, and that Christ is Lord, and that they are subject to Him.



Victory in Jesus

Peter wants to assure "us" that our enemy will not survive forever; he is a defeated foe.

“Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess”, because there is no other choice. In other words, punishment and reward in the form of judgment by God will occur, and no one can stop it.

Christ is Victorious!

Christ's Victory Brings Salvation

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 3:21-22



**Christ's victory has
now been
proclaimed to both
the disobedient,
and to the saved
who have repented,
turned to Christ and
been baptized by
the Holy Spirit**

Baptism

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."^{NRS}

Matthew 3:11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

NRS Acts 2:1-4

Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ^{NRS}

Acts 2:38

Baptism



**Baptism is not an event, it is a way of life.
Through our baptism, we set our hearts
on God in such a way, that our life
becomes fundamentally changed.**

**We are both baptized and initiated into a
baptismal life. We are taken into a
baptismal covenant in which we are
called to walk each day**

David DeSilva “The Sacramental Life”

Baptism Charts the Journey

Through baptism our hearts are set on God, we are accepted into the fellowship of God's people and together we help one another stay focused on God and the things of God. We have committed ourselves to a life course that follows God, and is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**Communion and baptism are key aspects
in Living the Sacramental Life, and Our
Testimony is the Fruit of this Life for God**

**Communion is nourishment for the
Journey**

**Baptism is what charts the course of
the journey**

**Our testimony is our response along
the way**

How will today's "Great Thanksgiving" nourish us?

How will our baptismal compass be directed or re-directed?

How will the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ provide a testimony of God's grace, that can then be shared with others?

It begins with a readiness to be open and surrendered to God's presence, and to God's guidance.



How will we respond to the sacramental call on our lives this day?

