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Minister of Word and Sacrament

April 1, 2010

Love One Another

Dear Readers,

The kind of choices Jesus makes answer the question of "how has Jesus loved us?" "Love one another as I have loved you." We are the beloved disciples, and it is the love part that stands out as the more prominent.

"How has Jesus loved us?" We see it in the table.

Paul writes those wonderful words, those words of institution. "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them saying, 'This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, also, after supper, he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, do this as often as you drink it.'" Then Paul adds those words, "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."



Bread and wine. They were ordinary elements that were common to almost every meal. They would have been there as part of the daily sustenance. Jesus takes them, and he gives them to us. He hands them over to us before he is handed over.

Think about those words, "handed over." Think about it. It was Jesus who was handed over. Handed over into the hands of those who would curse him, and mock him, and beat him, and kill him. He was handed over.

At the hands of his betrayer—yes, but realize it was he himself who did the handing over. Jesus handed himself over to this humiliating death. There is this old hymn that goes like this: "They bound the hands of Jesus in the garden where he prayed. They led him through the



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streets in shame. They spat upon the savior so pure and free from sin. They said, crucify him, he's to blame. He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and set him free. He could have called ten thousand angels, but he died alone, for you and me."

It was of his own will that he allowed himself to be handed over. It was of his own will that he allowed himself to be handed over for suffering, crucifixion, and death. It was of his own will....

Blessings,
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