Bible Study 82

June 21, 2023

The Book of Common Prayer (continued)

The Eucharist:

Last week we talked about how the Eucharist is the central act of Episcopal liturgical worship. Every Eucharist is a service where the faithful (You and I) offer Jesus back to the Father. This is symbolized at the Offertory when the Priest offers up the Bread and Wine. Jesus’ death is symbolized by the breaking of the bread. In communion we take him into our mind, heart and spirit.

When at the INTRODUCTION every one gathers there is something deliberate here. The word CHURCH comes from the GREEK word EKKLESIA (ecclesia) meaning TO COME TOGETHER.

We nearly always begin with a PENITENTIAL RITE. Why?---For the same reason people take off their shoes before they enter a Temple, Synagogue or other religious building. Traditionally Jews washed from the elbow to the fingertips and from the knees to the feet when the entered a house. We seek to become clean.

A PENITENTIAL RITE seeks to tell God we are sorry for sin and we repent. “Repent and believe in the Gospel”, Jesus tells his disciples.

In an Episcopal Church the penitential Rite is an ABSOLUTION. It is a Sacrament. Jesus said: “Whose sin you shall forgive they are forgiven.” He als said many times to people he healed: “Your sins are forgiven you, go and sin no more.”

The Collect: sets the theme for the Sunday Eucharist. It is address to the father.

The Readings:

There are always three readings. Usually The Old Testament; An Epistle (the Greek word for Letter); A Gospel.

The Old Testament Reading is either TRACK ONE or TRACK TWO> Track one is chronological; and Track two is thematic. The readings are designed to illustrate God’s intervention in the lives of his people and his plan of salvation which culminates with Jesus the Messiah. The priest or deacon should explain the significance of the reading in his homily.

When Christians GATHERED they always read from the Scriptures.

The Psalm is a hymn of Praise; Repentance; a Plea, a Morning or a Worship. There are different ways to pray it. First as a Cantor and Response from the congregation. Or alternating verses. Monks and Nuns often do the latter and even sing using chant.

The BOOK OF THE GOSPELS should be processed down the Aisle. Everyone stands. The Gospel is read by the Priest or the Deacon.