

The Lamb's High Feast

Lesson 7

Review of Lesson 1: Worship on Earth is patterned after the Worship of Heaven

Review of Lesson 2: God Communicates with Mankind through Sacraments

Review of Lesson 3: The Liturgy opens with prayers and actions as appropriate before a holy, holy, holy LORD.

Review of Lesson 4: Thus saith the Lord: God's word is His perfect self revelation

Lift up your hearts! Ascension Theology

One of the most important points of the Liturgy is the *sursum corda* – the command to lift up your hearts. This part of the liturgy is so rich and deep, it requires a substantial foundation to understand.

For the next few lessons, we will lay that foundation, one block at a time, until we build a theological base for the beautiful truth of what is happening at the *sursum corda*.

What did Jesus do that Saves Us?

As a scientifically minded culture, we tend to apply the scientific method to everything, including spiritual matters. The scientific method asks, “What did Jesus do which saves?” We want to strip away the unnecessary bits of his life and work, so that we boil the whole thing down to one proposition.

At least since the Reformation the Protestant Churches have tended to state the proposition this way: Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice in substitution for sinners, his death thus satisfying the justice of God and reconciling sinners to God. Therefore, the Protestant Evangelical gospel has become a narrowly focused message of “Christ's finished work upon the cross.”

Though there is great truth in this Reformed view, which no one should deny, nevertheless, it is a truncated view. There is much more to the whole truth of how Christ brings about our salvation. There is much more that could be said about what Jesus did that saves us.



The Communion of Saints

Note how the sky has “unfurled” or rolled back to reveal heaven to earth. On one side of the clouds is the Church Militant, enraptured in worship. On the other is the Church Victorious, Saints and Angels alike. In between the two sides is the Church Expectant, those who have died and await the completion of their

The Anglican Answer to this Question: What did Christ do that Saves?

From the Nicene / Constanopolitan Creed BCP p.89 / 1928 p.71

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;

From the Liturgy of the Mass, BCP p.112 / 1928 p.81

having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension... vouchsafe to bless and sanctify with thy word and Holy Spirit...

From the Great Litany, BCP p. 40 / 1928 p.55

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation, by thy holy Nativity and circumcision; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

God Lord, Deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat, by thy Cross and Passion, by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

God Lord, deliver us.

Foundation Block #1: By thy holy Incarnation

Genesis 3:15 “The Protoevangelicum” or “The First Gospel Proclamation”

Isaiah 7:14 “The Reiteration of the Gospel”

Matthew 1:23 and Luke 1:27

Galatians 4:4ff when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

1 Corinthians 15:21, 22 & 45 (See BCP p.187 / 1928 p.163)

21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

Hebrews 2:7-17

11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers