

Dear all,

The Study Service topic for Sunday at 7pm is Communion: what is it to feed on the risen Christ? Baptism and Holy Communion are the two great sacraments of the Christian Church, both instituted by Jesus for our growth and nurture.

Baptism is the sacrament that tells us Jesus was baptised and died for us while we were still sinners. It is the once for all sacrament which teaches us that our baptism is a baptism into his baptism and therefore a participation in all he did and is now, before we ever knew about it.

Holy Communion is likewise a participation in Christ, but it is the sacrament of our continual feeding on him and therefore should be celebrated regularly in worship. It is the sacrament in which we vividly recall all he suffered and won for us and in which he himself is present to us in such a way, that, as we bring to mind the fruits of his passion and the joy of his risen life, so he feeds us with his word and very self.

But what is it to feed on the risen Christ? In biblical language, eat his flesh and drink his blood? What is it to live as branches in the vine, fed by him, not out of ourselves? The answer will involve the question, what it is to be truly human? What is the relation between mind & body, between what we think and what we do?

Preparatory / follow up reading:

Torrance, *Atonement*, pp. 436-40

Readings:

John 14.23-24 & 15.3-11

1 Corinthians 10.16-18; 11.23-30 & 12.12-13

Philippians 4.4-9; Colossians 3.9-17