Text: Luke 22:7-20 (Confessional Address)

**Introduction**

Jesus says “do this in remembrance of me.” Most Lutheran’s tend to shy away from that phrase because the not Lutheran portion of the reformation kinda claimed it calling it a “memorial meal.” And so remembrance often became yoked to a real absence – just bread and wine, not body and blood. But remembrance in the ancient world was not simply a mental exercise. Remembrance was first a deeply physical thing. The Romans remembered their ancestors with literal masks of their faces *the imago*. The Jewish Passover meal was a living remembrance of a meal on the night the LORD brought them out of bondage by the blood of the lamb. The call to remember is the call to make real. In this case to make real Christ in our midst.

But I think we are often too much the children of the enlightenment to engage is such a remembrance. This is partly why I use that much longer confessional address on this night. I want to create a chain of memory for a second. The American Founders, at the end of this perfect enlightenment document – The Declaration of Independence – add the phrase that makes it real. We pledge our lives, fortunes and sacred honor. There heart and soul was in that endeavor. It was not just something they were larping. So much of what we do can feel like a larp, a live action role play. But to have a confession is the opposite of larping. To have a confession is to commit the spirit, to commit the self.

And that is what that confessional address is asking. Christ has fully revealed himself. He had given himself to you. His body broken as a pledge of the new creation. His blood shed as our Passover lamb. Tonight the LORD brings us out of our bondage to sin and death. Tonight we remember.

**Text**

And part of that remembrance, that I think Luke is great at, is remembering the heart of Christ. We can often reduce Jesus to some above it all guru, or some bloodless teacher. But this is the start of his passion. His suffering. His revealing of his heart for you.

There are two pictures of this that I want to ponder. The first is one that we might miss. Luke tells us in verses 1-6 – in something that strikes me as a remembrance of one of his sources – that Satan had already entered Judas and conferred with the chief priests how he might betray Jesus. Judas already had his 30 pieces of silver. And he was actively looking for the opportunity without a crowd. A meal with a limited group in an upper room would be such a time. So Jesus, in order to have his Passover meal, has to engage in some subterfuge. He calls Peter and John privately. And sends them to find the mystery man with a jar of water. He working around Judas and Satan so that he may eat the Passover with my disciples.

The second picture is his statement at the beginning of the meal. The traditional Passover meal has 4 cups. I’m not a Passover meal expert, but the first one is the thanks – the eucharist – at the beginning of the meal. And over that cup Jesus reveals his heart. “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” Earnestly desired captures something of a Hebrew intensification. It’s a form of the same word twice. With desire I desire. Earnestly desire isn’t a terrible translation, but we are such a bloodless generation. We’ve even drained the desire from sex. But the word for desire here is “on fire.” The soul of Jesus is committed to this.

**Christology**

The soul of Jesus is committed to giving himself to us. We will see the sacrifice of the missing Passover lamb in the hours that play out next. None of the account mention the lamb at all. Like Isaac asking Abraham, were is the sacrifice. It is provided by God.

And this is what his soul desired to do. Make this available to all. That as we remember we might also have Christ. He will not eat or drink of it until it is fulfilled. Because he is giving himself to us.

This is my body, which is given **for you**.

This cup that is poured out **for you** is the new covenant in my blood.

We do this in remembrance, because this is the very heart of Jesus. That you might have him and be saved from sin and death. That you might be brought out of bondage to Satan tonight. Because that angel of death cannot cross those marked by the blood of the lamb.

**Moral**

If you think this is a larp, don’t come up. This is food for the soul. If you take it as only bread and wine, our flesh cannot carry it.

But in faith this is Christ himself. This is the new covenant put within, written on the heart. This is knowing the LORD – from the least to the greatest. This is your sins remembered no more.

This is what Jesus desired to give us.

If this is what you seek, come. Come and eat and drink and remember. For we are all members of one body. The body of Christ. Formed here.

**Eschatological**

And let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

He has promised in this meal to be our Passover lamb.

And all who eat and drink of this meal, death will Passover.

All who eat and drink will one day not have to remember. Because they have the invitation to the wedding feast. When Christ himself will eat and drink of it again. When all has been fulfilled.

Tonight we remember the great heart that desired to give us this gift. Which prepares us to receive him in eternity.