JANUARY 8–14, 2024

Sacrament

GOLDEN TEXT

I Peter 4:10

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

RESPONSIVE READING

I Corinthians 10:16, 17; 12:27; Ephesians 4:11–16

I Cor. 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Eph. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

SECTION 1

The Bible

1 | Exodus 25:1 the, 2 (to :)

1 the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering:
2 | Exodus 28:3, 30 (to :)

3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise-hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office.

30 And thou shalt put in the breast-plate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron’s heart, when he goeth in before the Lord:

3 | Exodus 29:7

7 Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him.

4 | Hebrews 3:1, 2

1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

5 | Acts 10:38 God

38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

6 | 1 Peter 4:11 2nd if (to 1st.)

11 if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.

7 | 1 John 2:20 ye, 28 (to ;)

20 ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

28 And now, little children, abide in him;

*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

1 | 333:19–26

Throughout all generations both before and after the Christian era, the Christ, as the spiritual idea, — the reflection of God, — has come with some measure of power and grace to all prepared to receive Christ, Truth. Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and the prophets caught glorious glimpses of the Messiah, or Christ, which baptized these seers in the divine nature, the essence of Love.

2 | 135:26

Christianity as Jesus taught it was not a creed, nor a system of ceremonies, nor a special gift from a ritualistic Jehovah; but it was the demonstration of divine Love casting out error and healing the sick, not merely in the name of Christ, or
Truth, but in demonstration of Truth, as must be the case in the cycles of divine light.

3 | 141:13–21

In healing the sick and sinning, Jesus elaborated the fact that the healing effect followed the understanding of the divine Principle and of the Christ-spirit which governed the corporeal Jesus. For this Principle there is no dynasty, no ecclesiastical monopoly. Its only crowned head is immortal sovereignty. Its only priest is the spiritualized man. The Bible declares that all believers are made “kings and priests unto God.”

4 | 595:13

The Urim and Thummim, which were to be on Aaron’s breast when he went before Jehovah, were holiness and purification of thought and deed, which alone can fit us for the office of spiritual teaching.

5 | 367:24–27

The infinite Truth of the Christ-cure has come to this age through a “still, small voice,” through silent utterances and divine anointing which quicken and increase the beneficial effects of Christianity.

6 | 481:5

Like the archpriests of yore, man is free “to enter into the holiest,” — the realm of God.

SECTION 2

The Bible

8 | Matthew 16:24

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

9 | Matthew 10:8

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

10 | Mark 10:35, 37–45 Grant

35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

37 Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. 38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? 39 And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am bap-
tized withal shall ye be baptized:  40 But
to sit on my right hand and on my left
hand is not mine to give; but it shall be
given to them for whom it is prepared.
41 And when the ten heard it, they began
to be much displeased with James and
John.  42 But Jesus called them to him,
and saith unto them, Ye know that they
which are accounted to rule over the
Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and
their great ones exercise authority upon
them.  43 But so shall it not be among
you: but whosoever will be great among
you, shall be your minister:  44 And
whosoever of you will be the chiefest,
shall be servant of all.  45 For even the Son
of man came not to be ministered unto,
but to minister, and to give his life
a ransom for many.

Science and Health

7 | 270:22–24

The pride of priesthood is the prince
of this world. It has nothing in Christ.
Meekness and charity have divine authori-

8 | 30:30

We cannot choose for ourselves, but
must work out our salvation in the way
Jesus taught. In meekness and might, he
was found preaching the gospel to the
poor. Pride and fear are unfit to bear the
standard of Truth, and God will never
place it in such hands.

9 | 455:20–25

God selects for the highest
service one who has grown
into such a fitness for it as renders any
abuse of the mission an impossibility. The
All-wise does not bestow His highest
trusts upon the unworthy. When He com-
missions a messenger, it is one who is
spiritually near Himself.

10 | 9:14

There is a cross to be taken up before
we can enjoy the fruition of our hope and
faith.

11 | 242:1–3, 15 In

Through repentance, spiritual baptism,
and regeneration, mortals put off their
material beliefs and false individuality.

In patient obedience to a patient God,
let us labor to dissolve with the universal
solvent of Love the adamant of error, —
self-will, self-justification, and self-love, —
which wars against spirituality and is the
law of sin and death.

12 | 67:28

Man delivered from sin, disease, and
death presents the true likeness or spiri-
tual ideal.

13 | 238:23

He who leaves all for Christ forsakes
popularity and gains Christianity.
SECTION 3

The Bible

11 | Mark 10:32–34 And he

32 And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, 33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: 34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

12 | Mark 14:1 (to :), 17, 22–25

1 After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread:

17 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.

22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. 23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. 24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Science and Health

14 | 32:20–2

The true sense is spiritually lost, if the sacrament is confined to the use of bread and wine. The disciples had eaten, yet Jesus prayed and gave them bread. This would have been foolish in a literal sense; but in its spiritual signification, it was natural and beautiful. Jesus prayed; he withdrew from the material senses to refresh his heart with brighter, with spiritual views.

The Passover, which Jesus ate with his disciples in the month Nisan on the night before his crucifixion, was a mournful occasion, a sad supper taken at the close of day, in the twilight of a glorious career with shadows fast falling around; and this supper closed forever Jesus' ritualism or concessions to matter.

15 | 41:6

Like our Master, we must depart from material sense into the spiritual sense of being.

16 | 35:25

Our Eucharist is spiritual communion with the one God. Our bread, “which cometh down from heaven,” is Truth. Our cup is the cross. Our wine the inspiration of Love, the draught our Master drank and commended to his followers.
If Christ, Truth, has come to us in demonstration, no other commemoration is requisite, for demonstration is Immanuel, or God with us; and if a friend be with us, why need we memorials of that friend?

If all who ever partook of the sacrament had really commemorated the sufferings of Jesus and drunk of his cup, they would have revolutionized the world. If all who seek his commemoration through material symbols will take up the cross, heal the sick, cast out evils, and preach Christ, or Truth, to the poor, — the receptive thought, — they will bring in the millennium.

Christians, are you drinking his cup?

SECTION 4

The Bible

13 | 2 Timothy 4:5 watch

5 watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

14 | 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

15 | Mark 16:9–11, 14

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. 14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

16 | John 21:1, 3–6, 9, 12, 15

1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a-fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. 6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast there-
fore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, loveth thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

Science and Health

Through all the disciples experienced, they became more spiritual and understood better what the Master had taught. His resurrection was also their resurrection.

20 | 35:6–14

Discerning Christ, Truth, anew on the shore of time, they were enabled to rise somewhat from mortal sensuousness, or the burial of mind in matter, into newness of life as Spirit.

This spiritual meeting with our Lord in the dawn of a new light is the morning meal which Christian Scientists commemorate. They bow before Christ, Truth, to receive more of his reappearing and silently to commune with the divine Principle, Love.

21 | 31:14–17

It is the living Christ, the practical Truth, which makes Jesus “the resurrection and the life” to all who follow him in deed.

SECTION 5

The Bible

17 | Romans 12:4–7 (to :), 8 he that giveth, 10 (to 1st ;), 12, 13

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering:

8 he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;
12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

18 | 1 Thessalonians 2:7 we
7 we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

19 | Hebrews 6:10 God
10 God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Science and Health

23 | 28:9–11
While respecting all that is good in the Church or out of it, one’s consecration to Christ is more on the ground of demonstration than of profession.

24 | 365:31
The poor suffering heart needs its rightful nutriment, such as peace, patience in tribulation, and a priceless sense of the dear Father’s loving-kindness.

25 | 395:18
The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, — receptive to Truth and Love.

26 | 234:4
Whatever inspires with wisdom, Truth, or Love — be it song, sermon, or Science — blesses the human family with crumbs of comfort from Christ’s table, feeding the hungry and giving living waters to the thirsty.

27 | 454:18
Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way. Right motives give pinsions to thought, and strength and freedom to speech and action. Love is priestess at the altar of Truth. Wait patiently for divine Love to move upon the waters of mortal mind, and form the perfect concept. Patience must “have her perfect work.”

SECTION 6

The Bible

20 | Colossians 4:17 Take
17 Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

21 | Acts 2:47 the Lord
47 the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
Acts 5:12 (to ;), 16, 42

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

I Peter 4:10

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Science and Health

Jesus established his church and maintained his mission on a spiritual foundation of Christ-healing.

CHURCH. The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.

The Church is that institution, which affords proof of its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of divine Science, thereby casting out devils, or error, and healing the sick.

We can unite with this church only as we are new-born of Spirit, as we reach the Life which is Truth and the Truth which is Life by bringing forth the fruits of Love, — casting out error and healing the sick.

Hold perpetually this thought, — that it is the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ, which enables you to demonstrate, with scientific certainty, the rule of healing, based upon its divine Principle, Love, underlying, overlying, and encompassing all true being.

The promises will be fulfilled. The time for the reappearing of the divine healing is throughout all time; and whosoever layeth his earthly all on the altar of divine Science, drinketh of Christ's cup now, and is endued with the spirit and power of Christian healing.