

# Perfected in the Word Ministry

“I Come!”

Spirit of Truth Cathedral

Holy Communion ~ Morning Service

Sunday, June 3, 2018



## Preliminary Remarks:

Saints of the living God, through Christ Jesus, I am rejoicing this afternoon for another opportunity to faithfully partake of the body and blood of our risen savior; on this *Memorial Day* of soul-searching reflection: celebrating the life, crucifixion, resurrection and salvation of the incarnate Son of God!

The Eucharistic message on this **Communion Sunday** reflects on the words of Christ, as recorded by that disciple whom Jesus loved, concerning our personal initiative in partaking of the holy sacrament of His body and blood for the salvation of our souls and eternal life! The message is simply entitled: “**I Come!**”

## Text:

**John 6:35,37,44** [King James Version]

- 35 And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life**: **he that cometh to me** shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.
- 37 All that the Father giveth me shall **come to me**; and **him that cometh to me** I will in no wise cast out.
- 44 No man can **come to me**, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.



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## Introduction:

In the year of 1834, an English poet, hymn writer, and editor by the name of Charlotte Elliott, penned the words to a song entitled: “*Just As I Am.*” In spite of being raised in a Christian home (as many of us may have been), she reflected on her debilitating illness, depression, conflicts and doubts and was unsure of her relationship with Christ (as many of us are also conflicted). So, she penned her words of assurance about Jesus loving her “just as she was.” Fifteen years later, William B. Bradbury composed music for her lyrics and published the song in 1849.

People aren’t “good enough” or “not good enough” to come to Jesus. It is through God’s initiative, pardon, promises and free love mentioned throughout the hymn that everyone can come to Jesus. Just like Elliott, people will face “conflict,” “doubt” and “fighting and fears within [and] without,” but one can find rest in Jesus. [Irene Ting-Ting Lai]

**John 1:29** and **John 6:37** encapsulate the passionate words of this song ...

[Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. ~ John 1:29 KJV]

[All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. ~ John 6:37 KJV]

### **Verse 1**

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid’st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, **I come!** I come!

### **Verse 2**

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot;  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, **I come!**

### **Verse 3**

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt;  
Fightings within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, **I come!**

### **Verse 4**

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;  
Yes, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, **I come!**

### **Verse 5**

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, **I come!**

### **Verse 6**

Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, **I come!**

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## Perfected in the Word Ministry

### I. Come To Me! [John 6:35,37,40,44]

John 6:35,37,40,44 [King James Version]

And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me** shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst ... **All that** the Father giveth me shall **come to me**; and **him that cometh to me** I will in no wise cast out ... And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and **believeth** on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day ... **No man can come to me**, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Saints of God, there will always be somebody that will challenge your spiritual conviction ... your spiritual beliefs ... your spiritual devotion ... and your God-ordained works – with the purpose of casting doubt or discrediting you and what you purport or profess to be in Christ!

And, so it was with Jesus! The intellectuals, during the dispensation of the Law, cornered Jesus in order to challenge his works or credentials – attempting to compare him to their forefathers: “What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe? What will you do? Our forefathers ate manna in the desert. He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” [Note: They questioned Jesus about his works even after they had seen him perform the miracle of feeding five-thousand with five loaves and two fish!]

Jesus countered their argument by explaining, in no uncertain terms, that it was not Moses who gave them the bread from heaven, but the father who gives you the true bread from heaven! For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world!

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Saints of the twenty-first century, we have not progressed any further than the intellectuals of Jesus' time, relative to our religious beliefs. We're still looking for food and power, but not faith; ultimately requiring a new hunger for the physical, rather than the satisfying hunger for eternal life! We, as well, need to look beyond religiousness and beyond wilderness manna to God's new sign ... Jesus!

Suddenly, the intellectuals had an epiphany: "Sir, from now on give us this bread!" Jesus declared: "**I am the bread of life!**" ... "**He who comes to me** will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty!

The phrase "**he that cometh**" is expressed in Greek by the word "**erchomai**" [e'r-kho-mī] ~ to come from one place to another, and used both of **persons arriving** and of **those returning** (as in **'backslider'**); to appear, make one's appearance, come before the public; to go, to follow one.

Children of God, there is no challenge for us to come to Jesus under the strain of obligation; but to the contrary: we are drawn to Christ by the inspirational calling of God's Holy spirit; which, by the will of the Father, desires that none be lost to everlasting damnation – but that all receive everlasting life ... even the backslider! [For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ~ John 3:16 KJV]

The Church of God in Christ has a song (of which we also embraced) that embodies their belief: "*This Is the Church of God In Christ*" One line of the song heralds: "You can't join it, you must be born in it!" The inference here is that we are born again in Christ, not of the flesh, but born of water (baptism) and of the Spirit. [Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God ... Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ~ John 3:3,5 KJV]

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### II. I Am The Bread of Life! [John 6:47-51]

**John 6:47-51** [King James Version]

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. **I am that bread of life**. Your fathers did eat **manna** in the wilderness, and are **dead**. This is **the bread which cometh** down from heaven, that a man may **eat** thereof, and not die. **I am the living bread** which came down from heaven: if any man **eat of this bread**, he shall **live for ever**: and the **bread** that I will give is **my flesh**, which I will give **for the life** of the world.

Saints there is more within the contents of this passage that I must unpack to expound on Jesus' message concerning His church! Even though Jesus succinctly presented His argument comparing the physical manna versus the eternal bread of life, there was still bewilderment and disbelief as to Jesus' authoritative pronouncement – identifying Himself as that “eternal bread!” [John 6:41,42] Listen, children of God! Our finite and somewhat logical minds cannot always comprehend infinite concepts, neither can we (in our human frailty) readily accept (without physical proof) the explanations of those spiritual precepts concerning the hereafter.

On another occasion, Jesus had to confront this issue of the “living bread” with Thomas and Philip. Thomas said: “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” To which Jesus replied: “**I am the way and the truth and the life! No one comes to the Father except through me!**” Then Philip said: “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us!” Jesus' response was: “**Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves!**” [John 14:5-11 NIV]

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Are we, as so called “Christians,” so concerned about our physical need for food, shelter and clothing that we fail in our “belief in the teachings of Christ” to accept the inexplicable – simply because we cannot see, taste, smell or touch what our hearts and minds have been drawn to believe by the words of the prophets and the Spirit of God? The Prophet Isaiah said: “And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD.” [Isaiah 54:13; John 6:45 NIV] To which Jesus further adds: “Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him **comes to me!**” [John 6:45 NIV]

Saints of God, Jesus is using the analogy of “manna” (that physical substance of nourishment) to symbolically illustrate the spiritual concept of “the bread of life.” On the one case, the physical bread begins as a seed, then grows in the field, then is harvested as wheat, then is manufactured in a form that can be digested (bread), then is eaten by man, then is excreted, then is non-existent. And when our natural bodies can no longer be maintained by it, we cease to exist (or die). The End!

On the other hand, if we partake of the body of Jesus Christ (by reading His word and learning of Him), we are symbolically and spiritually **eating of Him** ... thereby bringing to **life** the concept of **eating of His flesh!** But once we consume this spiritual **bread**, we will never go hungry and never die; because this **bread** is the lifeline to everlasting life! “O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” [Psalm 34:8] Jesus’ flesh is not like your flesh ... corruptible and perishable, with a guaranteed expiration date; but His flesh is incorruptible, imperishable, and is guaranteed to not have an expiration date!

[Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ~ 1Corinthians 15:51-53 KJV]

## Perfected in the Word Ministry

### III. Commune With Me! [John 6:53-58]

#### John 6:53-58 [King James Version]

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye **eat the flesh** of the Son of man, and **drink his blood**, ye have **no life** in you. Whoso **eateth my flesh**, and **drinketh my blood**, hath **eternal life**; and I will raise him up at the last day. For **my flesh is meat indeed**, and **my blood is drink indeed**. He that **eateth my flesh**, and **drinketh my blood**, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so **he that eateth me**, even he **shall live** by me. This is that **bread** which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat **manna**, and are **dead**: he that **eateth of this bread** shall **live for ever**.

One final point on this discourse; and that is Jesus desires a personal relationship with you! He wants to “**commune**” with us! “**Commune**” means: to **communicate** with someone or something in a very personal or spiritual way; to communicate intimately.

Communion is:

- a Christian ceremony in which **bread is eaten** and **wine is drunk** as a way of **showing devotion** to Jesus Christ
- a **close relationship** with someone or something
- a Christian sacrament in which consecrated bread and wine are consumed as **memorials of Christ's death** or as **symbols** for the realization of a **spiritual union** between Christ and communicant or as the body and blood of Christ
- **intimate fellowship** or rapport : **communication**
- a body of Christians having a **common faith** and **discipline**

Through our act of **Communion**, Jesus is saying: “Here I am! I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door [of your heart], I will come in and eat with him, and he with me!” [Revelation 3:20NIV] What a divine concept of the **living bread**!

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### IV. Come Unto Me! [Matthew 11:28-30]

Matthew 11:28-30 [King James Version]

**Come unto me**, all ye that **labour** and are **heavy laden**, and I will give you rest. Take **my yoke** upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find **rest unto your souls**. For **my yoke is easy**, and **my burden is light**.

Greek dialect ~ “**Deute pros me!**”

- Come (**deute** / dyü'-te / Strong's G1205) ~ interjection, come!, come now!  
~ Root Word: **deuro** (dyü'-ro / Strong's G1204) ~ **in urging and calling**, here! come!  
~ Interjection: a spoken word, phrase, or sound that **expresses sudden or strong feeling**
- Unto (**pros** / pro's) ~  
~ Preposition ~ grammar : a word or group of words that is used with a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to **show direction**, location, or time, or to introduce an object
- Me (**me** / meh / Strong's G3165) ~ pronoun : **I, me, my**  
~ Root Word: **eme** (e-me' / Strong's G1691) ~ accusative pronoun: I, me, myself  
~ Accusative ~ grammar : the form of a noun or pronoun when it is the direct object of a verb or the object of a preposition

Metaphor ~ likeness or analogy; symbol.

In the text, Jesus is comparing mankind metaphorically or symbolically to a beast of burden (e.g., any animal that carries or pulls heavy loads, such as a donkey, mule, llama, camel or ox); one that is overloaded with the cares of this world! {I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto Me, and rest; Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon My breast.” I came to Jesus as I was, weary, and worn, and sad; I found in Him a resting-place, and He has made me glad. I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live.” I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him. [I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ~ Horatius Bonar, pub.1846, excerpts]}

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Saints, rest is not the absence of labor, hardship, or suffering. However, rest is the absence of guilt, worry, anxiety, and lack of meaning. Jesus promises meaning, hope, assurance, peace, and joy – even in the troubles we must endure in life. God’s salvation is rest! Jesus invites the weary and burdened to **come to Him** and find rest for their souls. The yoke He puts on persons is much easier than that of the legalistic religion taught by the scribes and Pharisees, or any other religious sect of our dispensation of the Church. Only Jesus can truly give us rest from the heavy burden of sin! [NIV Disciple’s Study Bible, Doctrinal Notes 11:28-30]

On this **Communion Sunday**, will you personally respond to the prodding voice of Christ Jesus, and partake of His crucified body (symbolized by the bread) and drink of His blood of the New Testament (symbolized by the cup) in intimate devotion with the solemn response of your heart, by saying: “**I Come!**” [Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19,20; 1Corinthians 11:24,25]

