



# BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: COMMUNION



## BEST NAME

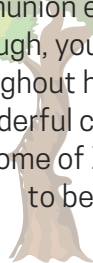
**Eucharist** is a good one -- it means thanksgiving. I also like **Love Feast**, a fellowship and gathering rooted in *agape*.

## COOLEST CHARACTER

**Priscilla** and her husband **Aquila**, steadfast friends of Paul. I'm taking a few liberties, but they hosted many gatherings in their home. Surely, Priscilla led, served, and spoke words of Communion to her fellowship. How I would have loved to know her!

## FAVORITE STORY

Maybe it's cheating, but I don't think so! The Gospels tell of a last meal together. But I feel like Jesus shared Communion every day. If you look hard enough, you'll see a gathered table throughout his ministry. I imagine the wonderful communion he shared at the home of Zacchaeus (Luke 19). Oh to be a fly on the wall!



**COME DOWN FROM THAT TREE!**

## 5 TEXTS

The words we share and the liturgies we create at Sardis for Communion are based on five texts:

- **Mark 14:12-26**
- **Matthew 26:17-30**
- **Luke 22:7-23**
- **John 13:1-20**
  - **Foot-washing**
- **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**
  - **Paul's recollection**



## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE DIDACHE?



**The Didache**, also known as "The Training," is a first-century manual of instruction for early Jesus-followers. It's a helpful document to read, because it offers a different perspective from Paul's letters and the Gospels. We hear how another community sought to make sense of Jesus' life, and how they worked to live as community. In this community of believers, Communion was grounded in consistent thanksgiving. You can read the full document [here](#).

## TROUBLESOME STORIES

Remember that what we read about the life of Jesus was written by people seeking to make sense of his ministry many decades after he actually lived. The initial gathering, a profound act of thanksgiving and hospitality, has been complicated over two millennia with requirements for access and sacrificial language.

## THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

God's table is for everyone; God's table offers a glimpse of a reconciled creation; The table is a statement of God's hospitality; The table is a statement of thanksgiving; The table illustrates a way (but not the only one!) that people can share their lives with one another.



## IF COMMUNION WERE A BAND, IT WOULD BE NAMED...

I COULD TAKE THE LOW-HANGING FRUIT AND CHOOSE **BREAD**, WHO REACHED #1 WITH THE SONG **MAKE IT WITH YOU** IN 1970, BUT THAT'S TOO EASY. HOW ABOUT **THE CRANBERRIES**? A HALF-STEP BETWEEN GRAPE JUICE AND WINE. **DO YOU HAVE TO LET IT LINGER? DO YOU HAVE TO, DO YOU HAVE TO LET IT LINGER?**

