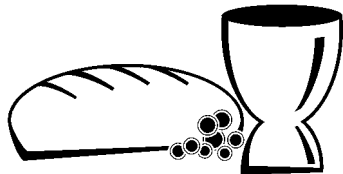


Soon And Very Soon

By Andrae Crouch (1971)

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We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

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Pentecost



We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

(Romans 8:22-23)

Old Orchard Church

Eighth Sunday of Easter

May 31, 2009—10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Celebrating the Immortal Jesus as the Resurrection Community of the Spirit

Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ
Who has baptized us with his Spirit—

Divine wind,
Fire from heaven,
Light from above,
Comforter
The very life of God in our lives!

Praise be to the Spirit who animates the church;
Who sets Christ before us, glorifying his dying and rising,
Convincing us we are loved,
Softening our hearts of stone,
Recreating us in the Beloved,
Drawing together what had split apart:
Young and old, rich and poor, men and women,
This racial group and that, the weak and the strong,
The sick and the well—
One new community of redeemed children of Adam!

Come, O Source of joy and gladness,
Breathe your life in and through us.
Alleluia!



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 36:22-29
New Testament Reading: Acts 1:4-9; 2:1-21

Mini Sermon Series on Christian Worship

"Exercising Faith to See the Drama: Glory and Grace"

Hebrews 12:12-29

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

The Spirit and the New Humanity

The Church is composed of those who are God's people in a very different sense than, for instance, *the earth is the Lord's*. The Spirit of the Lord fills and moves his creation, but what made the Church and fills and moves it is his Holy Spirit, something dearer, something greater. All men are God's, as part of his creation; they are his offspring. But there is something greater, more divine than humanity; it is the Church of God. The Church of God is the finest product of humanity, it is the greatest thing in the universe. And this is so because it was produced by God in his Son and Holy Spirit. The Church is his own as no nation is, no society, no family. The Church is his as his Son is his, his in his Son. His not as a part of creation, but as a new creation in Jesus Christ. If in love he created the world, in much more love did he create the Church. It was in might and beauty he created the world; it was in holy love he created the Church. It is his as nothing else in the world is. It is the Church of his Son, and his Son is more to him than all the world.

I speak of the Church of course as God sees it, God who sees the end from the beginning. You must also learn to see your Church like that, not as a man sees it but as God redeemed it, and as God trusts it, and bears with it, and feeds it, and serves it, and waits for it while it grows to the mature man in Jesus Christ.

—P. T. Forsyth (1848-1921)

