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“Enough” by Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

Ever wonder why there are different words or names used to refer to this time at the table?

Names:

* *Lord’s Supper*: conveys that Jesus himself is host of the supper and that we celebrate this feast in obedience to Christ.
* *Communion*: highlights the intimate union we experience with both Christ and fellow believers.
* *Eucharist*: based on the Greek word for “thanksgiving”… names this feast as a meal of gratitude, just as the last supper way, for Jesus and his disciples, a meal of thanksgiving.

In these three names, *the Lord’s Supper, Communion, Eucharist*, there is a depth of meaning linked to nearly every aspect of the gospel- which means “good news of Jesus.” Let’s hear some of that meaning now…

* The Lord’s Supper is a celebration of memory and hope. We remember all that God has done for us, especially in Christ.
* The Lord’s Supper is a thankful remembrance of the entire life and ministry of Christ: his participation in the creation of the world; his birth at Bethlehem; his teaching and miracle; his suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension; his sending of the Spirit; and his second coming and final reign. In these, we remember not only the actual events, but especially how those events give us an identity, how they transform us and all creation.
* The Lord’s Supper is a celebration and proclamation of Jesus’ real, spiritual presence with us, of the forgiveness offered to us through Christ’s work on the cross, and of the ongoing spiritual nourishment he provides us.
* The Lord’s Supper is a celebration of the unity of Christ’s body, the church, as well as a meal of hope, of anticipating the heavenly feast of Christ’s coming kingdom.
* The Lord’s Supper is a celebration of God’s grace, not human achievement. It is a means of grace through which God acts to seal the promises of the gospel. The power of the celebration does not lie in our ability to think hard about Jesus’ death and our sin, but in the way God’s Spirit uses the celebration to nourish and sustain us. The Lord’s Supper is a gift.
* The Lord’s Supper is not an end in itself. It always points beyond itself to celebrate God’s grace and covenant faithfulness. This does not mean the physical aspects of the celebration are incidental or unimportant. The Lord’s Supper should be a celebration fitting to the abundant grace of God offered in Christ.
* The Lord’s Supper is a sign of a covenantal relationship. Our relationship with God in Christ is based on promises. That’s why the celebration of the Lord’s Supper fittingly begins with a clear statement of God’s invitation and promises and continues with a robust prayer of thanksgiving and hope.
* The Lord’s Supper is deeply personal, but never private. It is a communal action of the gathered congregation, which represents the church in all time and places; hence the celebration of World Communion- God is able to be present with all God’s children/ people wherever we are.

In all of this, I have come to understand and believe the Lord’s Supper is a celebration of being “ENOUGH.” Jesus is ENOUGH. The bread is ENOUGH. The cup is ENOUGH. The table is ENOUGH. And the one’s at the table, you and me - ENOUGH!

Whatever stories we may have heard or whatever stories we may have told ourselves about the Lord’s Supper, the truth is there is a seat for you, because you are enough. You are enough, because God’s grace for you, for all of us, is sufficient and enough. Just to be clear, what enough means here is, “not lacking, not left wanting or needing more, complete, fulfilling, abundance, more than we could possibly think we want or need.” In God, you are ENOUGH, and God wants to celebrate that.

Flannery O’Connor once said, *“Most of us come to the church by a means the church does not allow.”* The Lord’s table is not our table to manage or arrange. The Lord’s table is the Lord’s and our Lord invites all to come and share in the bountiful feast of God’s grace and mercy and hope. The seats around the table, whether butted right up to the table, or set around the table, are not ours to manage or arrange. The seats around the table are made available to all who hunger and thirst for righteousness, all who need rest, all who are broken and in need of God’s healing and wholeness. Just in case you are wondering, that is all of us! The seats at the Lord’s table are not reserved for those we, or others, believe to be good enough or holy enough or deserving enough, “Are any of us ever good enough, holy enough, deserving enough, of all God provides?” And still God makes room for us to come and be fed. Why? Because in God’s eyes, and through God’s power and grace, you, we are ENOUGH.

Personal reflection of birthday gift from family-

I am tough on myself… Chances are, you don’t have to say much to me to call me out, that I haven’t already wrestled with or beat myself up over… Sometimes that voice in my head is stronger than my belief that in God, I am ENOUGH, and it eats at my confidence and faith… From that voice I can begin to question my worth or value and I wear that pretty hard.

However, what I am grateful for are those that remind me of God’s truth that I, even in my brokenness and wrongdoings and shortcomings, am ENOUGH. 43 years, 43 reasons my family celebrates me as ENOUGH…

Could we all have a scroll like that? Yes. Maybe it has been shared with you and is a great reminder. Maybe you are hearing it for the first time today. YOU ARE ENOUGH! In God’s eyes, YOU ARE ENOUGH, and the Lord’s Supper celebrates just that.