

1-1-1995

## Communion and Offering Meditations

Stephen Parmelee  
Stephen.parmelee@pepperdine.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven>



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Parmelee, Stephen (1995) "Communion and Offering Meditations," *Leaven*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 11.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven/vol3/iss1/11>

This Meditation is brought to you for free and open access by the Religion at Pepperdine Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Leaven by an authorized editor of Pepperdine Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [bailey.berry@pepperdine.edu](mailto:bailey.berry@pepperdine.edu).

## Communion and Offering Meditations

by  
Stephen Parmelee

One of the passages of scripture that puzzles me most is in Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus tells the assembled crowd, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect." On the face of it, it seems to me to be ludicrous, impossible, even to consider my perfection a possibility. I am very conscious of my failures, both small and large, and I am not at all certain about how I am to react to Jesus' instructions in this matter.

But regardless of my own shortcomings I can remember that there is a bridge between our failures and the perfection of our father: Christ himself. Christ's sacrifice on the cross is the one act that binds us together as fellow Christians and with God our father.

As we pray to God before taking this communion, I would like to include as a portion of that prayer the lyrics of the song "When My Love to Christ Grows Weak."

When our love to Christ grows weak,  
When for deeper faith we seek,  
Then in tho't we go to thee,  
Garden of Gethsemane!

There we walk amid the shades,  
While the ling'ring twilight fades,  
See that suffering, friendless One,  
Weeping, praying there alone.

*Father, we thank you for your son's sacrifice on the cross. We acknowledge that it is this sacrifice that gives us our hope, and we pray that this bread, which represents his broken body, will make us truly mindful of his love for us.*

When our love for man grows weak  
When for stronger faith we seek,  
Hill of Calvary! We go  
To thy scenes of fear and woe.

There behold His agony,  
Suffered on the bitter tree;  
See His anguish, see His faith—  
Love triumphant still in death.

*We are likewise grateful for the blood of Jesus, which was spilled that we might live. We pray that as we drink from this cup, we will sense the bond that we share as brothers and sisters in Christ.*

Then to life we turn again,  
Learning all the worth of pain,  
Learning all the might that lies  
In a full self-sacrifice.

*Our blessings are truly innumerable. We ask that we might give with a sense of gratitude, of caring, and of sharing. We thank you and ask you to bless our humble offering.*

*In your Son's name,*

*Amen.*

Stephen Parmelee teaches in the Humanities Division of Seaver College, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California.

## **Easter Season Celebration of Worship** ***“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”***

*The following is an abridged order of worship of a Seaver College, Pepperdine University Easter Season Celebration of Worship which took place on March 30, 1994. Please feel free to use it as a guide for a worship service in your congregation.*

\*Audience Standing

**Prelude to Worship** Songs of Praise  
“Bless the Lord;” “Sing Alleluia;” “He is Lord;”  
“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

### **Prologue,**

\*Scripture lection, John 5:24-29  
\*Hymn: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”  
\*Prayer

### **I. The Glory of God Shall be Revealed**

John 11:1-16 — Interpretative Reading (Narrator; Jesus; the disciples; Thomas)  
Reflection (3-4 minutes)  
Prayer  
Singing Group, “There is a Balm in Gilead”

### **II. I Am the Resurrection and the Life**

John 11:17-31 — Interpretive Reading (Narrator; Jesus; Martha)  
Reflection (3 to 4 minutes)  
Prayer  
Choral arrangement of choice (and or congregational singing)

### **III. Jesus Cried Out and Lazarus Came Forth**

John 11:32-44 — Interpretive Reading (Narrator; Jesus; Martha; Mary; the crowds; the Jews)  
Reflection (3 to 4 minutes)  
Prayer  
Quartet, “My Lord has Garments”

### **Epilogue**

\*Scripture lection, John 12:27-32  
\*Hymn, “Thou Art the Way”  
\*People’s Response

**We believe Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, many of which have not been recorded for us. But we receive this sign of Lazarus’ resurrection as being written that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, knowing that through believing we have life in his name.**

Stuart L. Love