



**ERSKINE**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*For Christ and His Church*

Spring Semester, 2012

**DN 960 CO: THE LORD'S SUPPER IN REFORMED FAITH AND WORSHIP**

February 20-24, 2012

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**CLASS MEETING TIMES:** All classes are to be held at the Columbia Campus: February 20, 3-6pm; February 21-23, 8am-12 noon and 3-6pm; February 24, 8am-12 noon.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this systematic study of the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper down through the centuries, special attention is given to its Biblical roots, as well as to the way the sacrament was observed in the ancient Church and the evolution of the liturgy through the days of the Byzantine Empire. Consideration is given to the Protestant Reformation and to the eucharistic theology of Luther, Zwingli, Bucer, and Calvin. In addition to a study of the development of a covenantal theology of the sacrament, the deep devotional insights of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and a number of communion prayers and hymns are studied. *Elective. Three hours.*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian church. Particular attention is given to the teachings of the classical Protestant Reformation: Zwingli, Bucer, and Calvin. Some of the more recent teachers of the church such as Matthew Henry, James Alexander, and the Erskines are studied as well. A strong emphasis is given to the theological dimension of the sacrament, but also to the devotional dimension and even the diaconal dimension.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:** Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD and Amazon) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

## **TEXTBOOK**

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Worship Reformed According to Scripture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Louisville: Geneva Press, 2002, chapter on the Lord's Supper.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

(While this course has but one single textbook, a rather long list of books is provided for those interested in the subject.)

Alexander, James W. *Sacramental Discourses*, (1860). Modern reprint entitled *God's Love*. Edinburgh and Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1985.

Baker, Wayne J. *Heinrich Bullinger and the Covenant: The Other Reformed Tradition*. Athens, Ohio: Miami University Press, 1980.

Bucer, Martin. *Basic Principles: Translation and Commentary on Martin Bucer's Grund und Ursach*. Translated and edited by Ottomar Frederick Cypris. Appleford, England: Sutton Courtenay Press, 2002. Also available at University Reprints in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Bullinger, Henry. "Of the Lord's Holy Supper." Found in *The Decades*, vol. 5. Edited for the Parker Society by Thomas Harding. Cambridge: The University Press, 1849. (The volume containing the sermons on the sacraments is counted as volume 10 of the Parker Society Collection.) Read pp. 401-478.

Calvin, John. "Short Treatise on the Lord's Supper," and "The Clear Explanation of Sound Doctrine Concerning the Holy Supper (1561)." Translated by J. K. S. Reid. Library of Christian Classics, vol. xxii, pp. 140-166 and 257-330. (Calvin's Theological Treatises?) Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1954.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edited by John T. McNeill. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. The Library of Christian Classics, vols. xx and xxi. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960.

Corda, Salvatore. *Veritas Sacramenti: A Study in Vermigli's Doctrine of the Lord's Supper*. Zurich: Theologische Verlag Zurich, 1975. (An Italian Reformed theologian of the sixteenth century, Vermigli is considered by many to have done the best job of presenting the Reformed doctrine of the Lord's Supper.)

- Davies, Horton. *The Worship of the English Puritans*. Morgan, Pa.: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1998.
- Davies, Samuel. *The Sermons of Samuel Davies*. 3 vols. Pittsburgh: Soli Deo Gloria, 1997. (Davies was one of the organizers of Presbyterianism in the colony of Virginia and one of the greatest orators in American history. These three volumes are a good addition to the pastor's library.) Three sermons on the Lord's Supper are found in volume 2: #32, #53 and #55.
- Doolittle, Thomas. *A Treatise Concerning the Lord's Supper*. Edited by Don Kistler. Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1998.
- Gerrish, Brian. *Grace and Gratitude: The Eucharistic Theology of John Calvin*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Henry, Matthew. *A Communicant's Companion*, 1:284-412. Found in *The Complete Works of Matthew Henry*. 2 vols. Edinburgh: J. Fullarton & Co., 1855. Reprint Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979. Second reprinting, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997. (We will give much attention to this work in class. These two volumes are a good addition to the pastor's library.)
- Luther, Martin. *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*. Found in Luther's Works. Vol. 36. Edited by Helmut T. Lehman. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959. (An essential book for the understanding of Protestant worship.)
- McDonnell, Kilian. *John Calvin: The Church and the Eucharist*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1967. (This is a sympathetic interpretation of Calvin by an American Roman Catholic. It is an important book to read.)
- McLelland, J. C. *The Visible Words of God: An Exposition of the Sacramental Theology of Peter Martyr Vermigli*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1958.
- Preston, John. *A Preparation to the Lord's Supper: Preached in Three Sermons*. London: John Dawson, 1638.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *The New Covenant, or, The Saints' Portion*. London: Printed by I. D. for Nicolas Bourne, 1631.
- Sasse, Hermann. *This Is My Body: Luther's Contention for the Real Presence in the Sacrament of the Altar*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1959. (This book is a classic.)
- Schmidt, Leigh. *Holy Fairs*. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1990. (This is a great piece of research by a Methodist scholar. It shows that the American Revivalist tradition goes back to the communion sermons of Scottish Presbyterianism.)

Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. *Till He Come: A Collection of Communion Addresses*. Fearn, Ross-shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2001.

Stephens, W. P. *The Theology of Huldrych Zwingli*. Oxford, 1986.

Thompson, Bard. *Liturgies of the Western Church*. Reprint. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980. (This is a handy collection of texts useful for this course.)

Vermigli, Peter Martyr. *The Oxford Treatise and Disputation*. Translated and Edited by Joseph C. McLelland. Kirksville, Missouri: Sixteenth Century Essays and Studies, 2000.

Wallace, Ronald S. *Calvin's Doctrine of Word and Sacrament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1957. (An old classic worth chasing down in a second hand book store.)

Welker, Michael. *What Happens in Holy Communion?* Translated by John F. Hoffmeyer. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000. (This is perhaps the best recent attempt of a liberal Protestant to come up with an ecumenical interpretation of the sacrament.)

Wisloff, Carl F. *The Gift of Communion: Luther's Controversy with Rome*. Minneapolis, 1964. (Still the best work on Luther's eucharistic theology.)

Zwingli, Ulrich. *On the Lord's Supper*. Library of Christian Classics, vol. XXIV. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1953.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. At the first meeting of the course students are asked to have read as many of the classic documents of Reformed teaching from the list below as possible. Students will be called upon to report on what they have learned from these documents as the basis of our discussion.

Luther's *Babylonian Captivity of the Church*

Bucer's *Basic Principles*

Zwingli's *On the Lord's Supper*

Calvin's "Short Treatise on the Lord's Supper," and *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book IV, chapters xiv and xvii, and "The Clear Exposition of Sound Doctrine concerning the Holy Supper"

Matthew Henry, *A Communicant's Companion*

John Owen, *Sermons on the Lord's Supper*

J. W. Alexander, *God is Love*

John Willison, *A Sacramental Catechism*

The communion sermons of the Erskines

2. A term paper of twenty to twenty-five pages will be required based on discussion and the readings. One of the purposes of this paper is to explore the riches of Reformed eucharistic piety over the centuries. The paper is due March 24, 2012.
3. **STYLE MANUALS FOR RESEARCH PAPERS:** All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required for the final paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements. The current recommended style manual is Turabian, 7th edition.
4. **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Roll will be taken both mornings and evenings. Attendance is expected at all sessions. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.
5. Grading is based upon class preparation and participation and the term paper.

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[http://seminary.erskine.edu/content\\_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf](http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf)