

Mystagogia Questions

Week 5 (Celebrating at the Lord's Table)

1. Imagine that you are a missionary to a new land and culture. The people to whom you are sent have never eaten bread or made wine. Their staple diet is rice and their celebratory drink is a kind of beer. Do you introduce them to bread and wine for the Eucharist or do you adapt the Eucharistic elements to be rice and beer?
2. For persons who do not wish to consume alcohol, should grape juice be made available as an alternative to wine for Communion? Is it discrimination not to do so? Is it necessary? How could this attempt at inclusion create disunity?
3. Do you prefer the traditional or contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer, and what is the reason for your choice? Do you think we should be 'bilingual' (able to recite both versions) or do you think it would be better for the church to pick one and be consistent?
4. If John's depiction of the Last Supper as occurring before the Passover is correct, it argues for the use of a loaf of leavened bread (as our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters do), rather than unleavened wafers, at communion. How would that better reflect the symbolism of the assembly being member's of Christ's body? How would you feel about the use of leavened bread rather than unleavened wafers at Communion?
5. Do you think un-baptized persons should be welcomed to receive Communion? Why, why not?