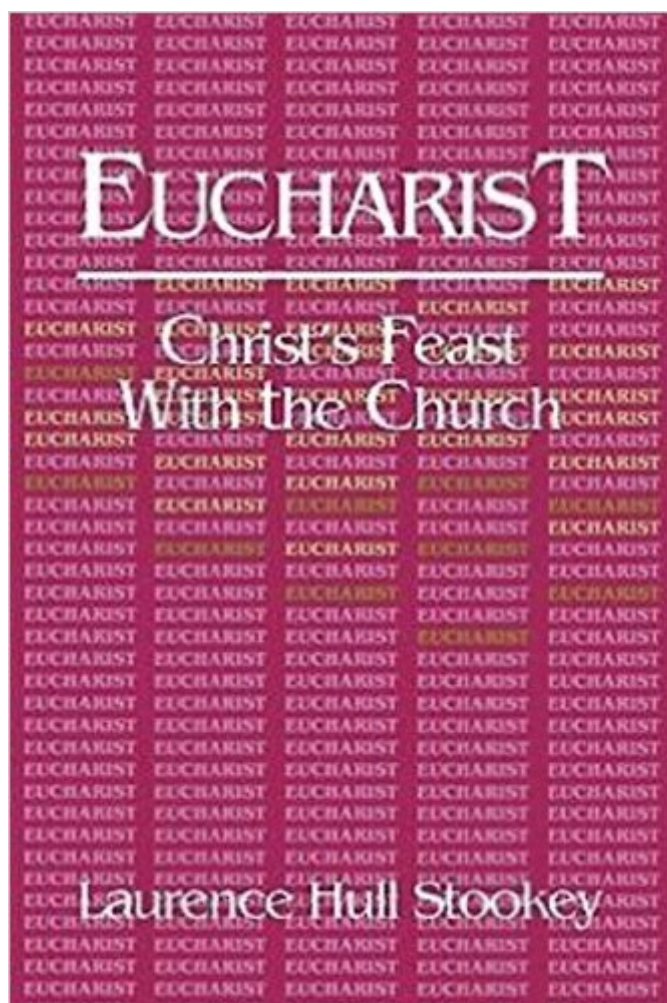


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Eucharist: Christ's Feast With The Church



Synopsis

This book is envisioned as a follow up to Stookey's successful *Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church*, published in 1982. It will provide historical--theological perspective in a style that is "popular," rather than academically heavy; and, it will be ecumenical in scope, but with a concentration on Protestantism. The shared Calvinian eucharistic tradition of Presbyterians, UCC, and Methodists will be particularly explored. It will also provide material pertinent to preaching, study of the eucharist by laity, and practical local reform that implements recent revisions of denominational rites.

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Abingdon Press; Later Printing edition (April 1, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0687120179

ISBN-13: 978-0687120178

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Laurence Hull Stookey has a wonderful trinity of books in this text and the companion volumes 'Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church' and 'Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church'. These books address key aspects of Christian church practice in ecumenical and historical tones. 'Eucharist' is no different - it is a one volume survey of historical, theological and practical issues surrounding the central facet of Eucharist / Lord's Supper / Communion. Stookey himself is a Methodist, but writes intentionally as an ecumenical writer; this particular text was completed while he was on sabbatical near a joint Anglican-Methodist seminary. Stookey's preface begins with a comparison of Babette's Feast and Christ's meal with the church - there is something hidden, something disarming, something inviting about the meal; we may not all approach it exactly the same way and with the same expectations, but those who feast do find it a nurturing banquet. As Stookey points out, eating and drinking are central to life and community. Food is a common motif in the gospels; gathering

together for meals is frequently cited from the time of the apostles forward as primary, and indeed the first ordained members of the church were those appointed to help serve the food. Stookey gives a brief summary of New Testament images and writings about communion. He begins with Paul's instructions to the Corinthians, the text upon which many churches base the liturgies or prayers at Eucharist, given that they are the closest in time to the original Last Supper. He discusses terms such as 'anamnesis' and 'prolepsis' without becoming too bogged down in theology or exegetical analysis.

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