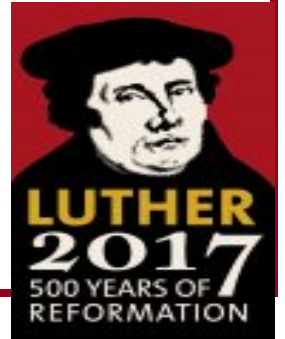


## *Coram Deo*

1 Corinthians 11:23-31

Maundy Thursday, 2017

Pastor Dave Bolte



**THERE IS A LATIN WORD** that is good for you to know: it's *Coram Deo*. *Coram Deo* means “**the Presence of God.**” It is the idea that *we live and move and have our being* in the presence of God each day; that the Lord watches over us, and He is at work in everything we say and do.

God has always been **present** with His People.

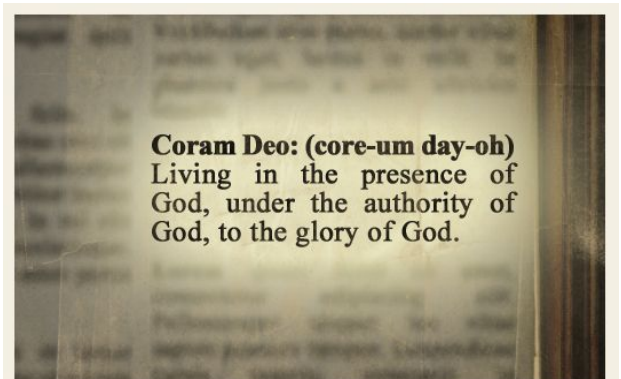
In the Garden of Eden, **ADAM AND EVE** experienced *Coram Deo* as God “*walked with them in the cool of the day.*” GENESIS 2:8

Later, **ABRAHAM** experienced *Coram Deo* when the Lord came to visit him at his tent. The Lord appeared as a traveler and told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a miracle baby in their old age! GENESIS 18:1

**MOSES** stood *Coram Deo* in front of a burning bush. The fire of the Lord's holiness did not consume the bush, and the Lord called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

EXODUS 3

Do you remember the **ISRAELITES** in the wilderness during the Exodus? They were *Coram Deo* in a



unique way. The Lord was present with them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. EXODUS 13:21

And then there is the birth of **CHRIST!** God in the flesh, born to be our Savior! Jesus is *Coram Deo* Himself. God walked among the Israelites, preaching the Gospel, teaching in parables, and working mighty miracles. THE GOSPELS

Jesus took the *Coram Deo* to a cross, where both Jews and Gentiles crucified the “*Lord of Glory*”. God suffered and died for you, so that you have **forgiveness and reconciliation** with God the Father. Jesus carried your sins in life and in death, and on the Third Day He rose from the dead in glory and power. Eternal salvation is His work on your behalf; it is given to you by grace through faith alone. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:8

The crucified and risen Son of God then ascended into heaven, and in the Ascension, Jesus promises that the *Coram Deo* will be with you forever, even to the ends of the earth! Jesus promises that He always with you; He is **omnipresent!** There is nowhere you can go and nothing you can do that God is not right there with you. MATTHEW 28:20

The same Lord Jesus Christ makes another promise to you: that the *Coram Deo* is within you! God is present in your life as **Jesus** lives within you; the **Holy Spirit** dwells within you and **God the Father** abides with you. The “*mystical union*” is that God chose your body as His Temple! The *Coram Deo* is within you!

THAT MEANS

YOUR ENTIRE LIFE IS LIVED OUT

*Coram Deo: in the presence of God!*

*You live and move and have your being Coram Deo!*

Tonight, on Maundy Thursday, we get to remember and celebrate yet another special place where we find the *Coram Deo*: in **Holy Communion**.

Jesus places the *Coram Deo* in the bread and the wine for you. Jesus promises that the bread and wine of Holy Communion are His body and blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of our sins. When you “take and eat” and “take and drink”, that is the *Coram Deo*! In this **miraculous meal**, this **holy mystery** (“*sacrament*”) the body and blood of the Son of God is given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins!

The theological name for Holy Communion is the **“Real Presence”** --- this term signifies that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper. Jesus places the *Coram Deo* – His Real Presence --- in the Lord’s Supper for you!

- † This is where God walks with you *in the cool of the day!*
- † This is where God *appears at your tent and makes promises* to you
- † This is our *Holy ground and burning bush*
- † This is our *pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night*
- † This is where we receive the gifts of the crucified *Lord of Glory*
- † This is where *Christ walks among us and works the miracle of forgiveness*
- † This is where Christ *promises to be with us* to the ends of the earth

This is where you come into the presence of God in a supernatural, unique way. Holy Communion is *Coram Deo* for the forgiveness of your sins!

As God forgives your sins in this Supper, He promises to remain with you throughout lives. Your entire life is lived out *Coram Deo: in the presence of God!* The crucified and risen Savior is with you always, even to the ends of the earth. Because of His presence, you can live a bold Christian life. You can hate what is evil and cling to what is good. You can love one another with patience and kindness, as Jesus has loved you with patience and kindness. You can live a holy and godly life. You belong to God, and your entire life is lived out *Coram Deo!*

**Finally, one other thing.**

We eagerly look forward to *one more fantastic Coram Deo* event. It is the return of Christ on the Last Day. Jesus will appear in great glory with all the holy angels.

- ‡ On that day, He will judge all unbelievers and condemn them in their unbelief, rebellion, and immorality.
- ‡ On that day, He will gather His chosen people, all those who trust in Him and believe His promises, and we will live forever *Coram Deo* in the Kingdom of Heaven!

But until then, we have **Holy Communion**; this is a miraculous meal *Coram Deo* where Jesus forgives your sins and strengthens your faith until you see Him with your own eyes! This is the foretaste of the eternal *Coram Deo* Feast to come!

So tonight, prepare yourself to come into *the very presence of God* in Holy Communion. We take the Lord's Supper *Coram Deo!*

*Coram Deo*

Sometimes, it's worth learning a Latin phrase!

Amen!