



¹⁸ Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. ¹⁹ For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: ²⁰ When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: ²¹ So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations. ²² Moreover the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²³ Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty shekels, ²⁴ And of cassia five hundred shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin: ²⁵ And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil. (Ex 30:18-25)

The traditional worship of the Reformation Church of England follows closely those patterns of worship revealed in God's Word. It is reverent – a necessity laid down by God “. . . *we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*” – (Heb 12:9) – and Holy. It conforms, at many points, to the Tabernacle worship practices that foreshadowed the High Priest of God – the Lord Jesus Christ.

During every Holy Communion Service, worshippers repeat (with the priest) the Prayer of Humble Access just prior to reception of the Communion. This establishes our credentials of faith and sincerity in coming to the Table of the Lord. The Prayer of Humble Access is NEVER omitted for this prayer stands in the stead of the Brazen Laver – a type and shadow of Christ. The Brazen Laver was a washbasin made of the brass mirrors donated by the women of Israel. It stood between the Tabernacle 'Holy Place' and the Bronze Altar. The Bronze Altar represents the sacrifice Christ made for us at Calvary. The priests could not approach the Bronze Altar before washing themselves in the Brazen Laver. All who come to Christ and His Communion must be washed by the Blood of Christ prior to coming; else their reception of the Communion is not valid. The Laver stood between the Altar and the Holy Place because we could not have been washed from our sins had the Altar of Sacrifice of the Lord not preceded our coming:

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much

as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen*¹

This prayer, sincerely uttered from the heart, establishes our acceptance at the Table of the Lord. Our worship and faith must not be of the silver-plated variety, but sterling in quality and earnestness.

The water of the laver, and its refined and polished surface, enabled the priests to see their own dirt bedecked faces before washing to our worthiness to receive the Communion. Insofar as the Brazen Laver is concerned, we all come as priests before God in worship for the officiating priest does not take precedent over the whole congregation of the Church of God. *“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”* (Rev 1:5-6) The veil of separation before the Holy of Holies was torn from “top to bottom” at the death of our Lord revealing that we need no human intermediary for our sins but the Lord who died for us. We have equal access to the Throne of Mercy and Grace which is the Throne of God. It is no longer the shadow of washing with water that suffices to justify each of us as worshippers of God, but the Blood of Christ shed once and for all for us. The Brazen Laver has been realized in the sacrifice of Christ. Christ is our Brazen Laver – the Word in which we see our reflected depravity, as well as justification, as if gazing into the mirror. We are changed and perfected by that reflected perfection of Christ whose face we behold in the mirror of His Word. *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* (2 Cor 3:18)

After the priests of the Tabernacle had washed both hand and foot at the Brazen Laver, had arrayed themselves with the proper attire of worship, they then entered the Holy Place. So it is imperative that the Christian be washed both inwardly and outwardly by the Blood of Christ before entering in worship of Him. Let us not forget, either, the proper attire of worship – clean, modest, and decent apparel worthy of that robe of righteousness conveyed by Christ. We may then enter into the Communion of Christ. In our modern churches, men and women enter the Church as if entering a movie theater – loud speech, gossip, and irreverence. We should enter the worship place with quiet reverence. Even the minister should not remain without to chatter with the communicants. This is reserved for the fellowship hour following. As the above passage from Exodus asserts, that prior to entering into the Holy Place, “. . . *So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not.*” This conforms completely to the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ: *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (Mark 16:16)

The Brazen Laver was an anointed instrument of worship. It was made Holy by the anointing of God. So is every worshipper who washes at the ever-flowing Fountain of Living Waters (the Lord Jesus Christ). The Fountain is Holy and anointed by the Father. We must be cleansed at that fountain ere our worship can be of any worth. Whoever touched, and was washed in the Brazen Laver was considered Holy in the same sense that whatsoever touched or was placed on the Bronze Altar was Holy to

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God. We have the Brazen Laver as our means of cleansing since Christ has endured the Altar for us and in our stead. He came to the altar of Sacrifice before so that we might be admitted later to the presence of God.

Have you discovered your utter lack of righteousness by your looking into the Mirror of God's Word as did the priest in viewing their faces in the Brazen Laver? Have you discovered your need to be washed, through and through, by His Blood. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Brazen Laver that admits us into the Holy Place. Have you been washed at that fountain?