

elder in this solemn service. It is held by some, and they carefully act upon this belief, that the minister and the minister alone should be permitted to place the elements of the eucharistic feast in the hands or lips of communicants. With us there is no such restriction. The sacred service is conducted by all the elders. They reverently pass through the church distributing the bread and the wine and placing them in the hands of the members. This is a silent but effectual protest against sacerdotalism. For what is the root and core of this growing error? It is the ascribing to one man, known as the priest, or by any other name you please, the exclusive right of transacting with God in spiritual matters in behalf of others.

We seek to guard against this evil chiefly by clinging to Jesus Christ as our only great High Priest before God, and also by denying to every elder, the preaching elder included, as we are fully authorized by Scripture, the right to the name and the functions of a priest, except in the sense in which the whole body of believers are a royal priesthood. And let me remind you, as my final word, that it is only as we all habitually come boldly to the throne of grace, in the name of Christ, in the exercise of our royal priesthood and in concert with those we have chosen to teach and to rule, that we shall bring down the power of God the Spirit into this church to quicken the dead, and to comfort, purify and establish those who believe. Amen.