

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **(Public Service)**

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The Lord's Supper should be observed at least four times annually in each congregation. It may be administered at the altar or in the pews, or for a special occasion such as on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, it may be celebrated in a "Last Supper" setting.

The Lord's Supper shall be preceded by a sermon or meditation using 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, Luke 22:14-20, or another appropriate passage of Scripture.

Prior to the emblems of the sacrament being served, the minister shall invite all who can do so to kneel with him as he prays extemporaneously or in the following manner:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open and all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse even the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Almighty God, "we all, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). All of us "have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We have broken Your laws. Therefore, we repent our sins and confess them before You. We thank You that "if we confess our sins, [You] are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Our heavenly Father, because of Your tender mercy, You gave your only son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by the offering of Himself, suffering once, made a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world. In His gospel, He has instituted a memorial of His death and instructed that we continue it until His coming again.

Gracious Father, we come to this table trusting in Your great mercies. May we receive this sacrament with devout, believing, and grateful hearts as we receive the bread and the juice in memory of His passion. May His death be ever before us, quickening us to a holy resolve to hate sin, to love Christ, and to serve You through Him.

The Minister may conclude the consecratory prayer by asking the congregation to pray the Lord's Prayer with him:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

If the sacrament is being served at the altar, the minister shall commune first followed by the congregation. When the bread is distributed, he shall say:

"The body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for you. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on Him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving."

When the cup is distributed, the minister shall say:

"Drink this in remembrance that the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ was shed for you, for the washing away of all your sins and the sanctification of your soul. Take of it by faith and be thankful."

If the sacrament is being served in the pews, the minister shall distribute the bread trays to the Communion servants who shall distribute the trays to the pews. After the congregation has been served, the minister shall serve the Communion servants.

Then the minister shall say:

“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me’” (1 Corinthians 11:23-24).

Then the minister and the congregation shall eat of the bread.

Then the minister shall distribute the cup trays to the Communion servants who shall distribute the trays in the pews. After the congregation has been served, the minister shall serve the Communion servants; he shall say:

“In the same way, after the supper, He took the cup, saying ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’” (1 Corinthians 11:25-26).

After the Supper is concluded a prayer of thanksgiving may be shared, a hymn may be sung and the benediction offered:

“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21).