

## Lord's Supper

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' doctrine, and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and in prayers.* (Acts 2:42) Believers in Jesus Christ are to participate in the Lord's Supper by which God's salvation to be secured.

What is the Lord's Supper? In the old testament God gave Israel the first feast of the year was called the Passover. God's people celebrated the Passover, a ceremony. The feast of Passover reminded Israel of their exodus from Egypt and their freedom from slavery to the Egyptians. And remind them, God would one day send a Savior, Redeemer. It remembered the final plague in all the land of Egypt when the firstborn of the Egyptians died and the Israelites were spared from the death angel, those who obeyed God by sprinkled blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their homes. God promised, when I see the blood, I will pass over that home and not permit the destroyer. They escaped death and slavery through the intervention of God, they were freed to serve, worship the Lord. God instructed every household of the Israelite people to select a young male lamb without defect or blemish. The head of the household was to slain it in the evening, and apply some of its blood to the tops and sides of doorframe of their house. The lamb was then roasted and eaten with unleavened bread in haste. God also instructed as to how the Israelites were to eat the lamb, with loins girded, shoes on their feet, and staff in hand, ready to move out quickly. *Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb for his family your lamb is to be without blemish. You must watch over it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then...slaughter it at twilight.* (Exo.12) It is a yearly observance. *Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time.* (Num.9:2) The Passover was most sacred feast. God's command was all come together to the feast. This lamb and meal of unleavened bread became abiding symbol of Israel's deliverance from bondage. There was always to be a perfect lamb sacrifice at the Passover.

At the Last Supper, on the night before Jesus suffered on the cross, Lord Jesus gathered in upper room on mount Zion, shared a meal with His disciples, and then led them in the observance of Feast of Passover. During Passover cup, Jesus instituted sacrament of His Body and Blood, a new covenant using bread and wine. As Jesus raised the bread and the cup in thanksgiving, He added new significance, told His disciples to observe the Passover "in remembrance of me" Jesus took an old symbol and filled it with new meaning. He did this to remember sacrifice of the Cross throughout ages a memorial of his death and resurrection. It is a significant of new fellowship meal that we observe to this day. We call it the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion or Eucharist, also known as the Lord's Table.

Jesus, the Son of God, became fulfillment of a Redeemer. (Isa.53) *For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us.* (1Cor 5:7) *a Lamb without spot.* (1Pet.1:19) Jesus, our final and perfect atonement lived a sinless life. Christ is *the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.* (Joh.1:29) This lamb represents perfect sacrifice that Jesus makes for us on the cross. It was to be slain and roasted with fire, even unto death. For only shed blood of Jesus can cleanse and make atonement for all sin. Jesus came to earth to sacrifice His life to save mankind. *Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover Lamb had to be sacrificed...When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.* (Luk22:1-20) The New Testament establishes this perfect Passover lamb. Jesus was crucified during the time that the Passover was observed. (Mark 14:12) Bible says believers have symbolically applied the sacrificial blood of Christ to their hearts, thus have escaped eternal death. (Heb 9:12,14) Christ's applied blood causes God's judgment to pass over and gives life to believers. (Rom.6:23) And the death of Christ marks our release from the slavery of sin.

Under the Old Covenant, God accepted the sacrifices of animals. But these were just a foreshadowing of the better and final sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Because of His ultimate, once-for-all-time sacrifice on the cross, Jesus became One capable of giving people a way to escape death and a sure hope of eternal life. (1Pet.1:20-21) And in the blood of Christ that saves from all sin. (Heb.9:22) This is the center of Passover and the Good News—in the Gospel.

The consecrated bread and wine are to symbolize His body and blood and proceeded by prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for the elements. (Gen.14:18) The bread reminds us Christ's body. The bread is broken represent the Lord's body that was broken for us on the cross. The wine reminds us of the blood of Passover Lamb that was poured out for our sins. The bread was for the saving of their life and healing of the body and the blood was for forgiveness of their sins and iniquities. Jesus was willing to drink cup of salvation, He experienced God's wrath and separation that we might be free and forgiven. Lord's Supper is a memorial feast. For this reason elements are placed on a table. The memorial of Christ refers to his entire life and ministry, his death, resurrection, ascension, and return. In partaking Lord' supper, each person is expressing personally placed his faith in Christ as his Savior. God's redeemed people enjoy communion with the Father in glorifying His Son. The Lord's Supper as a sacrament was commanded and thus instituted by Christ himself. Let us come together to observe Lord's Supper as per principles/patterns found in N.T. *And they overcame (victory over) him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.* (Rev.12:11)

The Lord's Supper looks back to the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. It shows how much God loves us—so much that he sent his Son to die for us, so that our sins would be forgiven and we may live forever with him. Without the shedding of the blood of Jesus and His substitutionary death, we would have no hope of salvation. We redeemed looks back to the cross and resurrection of Jesus through the Lord's Supper. The death of Jesus is a great gift to us. We should receive it with gratitude, as an expression of great love. So the Lord's Supper, a memorial of a death, we observe this by knowing that death held Jesus only three days—that death will not hold us either. We rejoice that Jesus has conquered death, and has set free who were enslaved by a fear of death. We can remember Jesus' death has triumphed over Satan, sin and death!(Col.2:14-15) The crucifixion of Jesus has a continuing significance to all who have taken up a cross to follow him. The realization of the cross brings power, love, victory. Glory in the cross will become our strength. You become a church member, taking part in the Lord' Supper, is spirited in your Christian life. This makes this a blessed, event. We celebrate feast of our redemption in remembrance of Him, for Jesus is alive!

When Jesus said we must "*eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood*"(John 6:53), we must receive Him by faith.(Joh.1:12) Believing this is how we "eat" Jesus's flesh and "drink" his blood. For Jesus, eating and drinking is believing. He promises eternal life to those who believe in him. Believe that his death — the breaking of his body and spilling of his blood — pays in full the penalty for our sin, and that his perfect righteousness is freely given to us. His flesh and blood hold that the bread and wine are symbolic of the spiritual bond created with Christ through faith. We know that we need physical food and drink; Jesus wants us to understand that we also need spiritual food and drink—and that is what His sacrifice provides. *Food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you* (v.27) At this point, Jesus explains that it is not physical bread that truly needs, but spiritual bread.(John 6:35,48,51)

Jesus then compares and contrasts Himself to the manna that Israel had eaten in the time of Moses: "*Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die*"(John 6:49-50) Like manna, Jesus came down from heaven; and like manna, Jesus gives eternal life.(v.58) *The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.*(John 6:63) Those who misunderstood Jesus and were offended by His talk about eating His flesh and drinking His blood were stuck in a physical mindset, ignoring the things of the Spirit. The act of eating and drinking was to be a symbol of their faith in Christ. Just as physical food gives earthly life, Christ's sacrifice on the cross gives heavenly life. The physical bread the actual presence of God has become the spiritual bread that abides continually with us today through the Holy Spirit.(Heb8:5)

At Jesus' last meal with his disciples, Jesus pictured the life of kingdom by washing the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-15) For Jesus, it was the display of His humility and His servanthood and love on the cross. For the disciples, the washing of their feet was in direct contrast to their heart attitudes. For us, washing feet is symbolic of our role in the body of Christ. When Jesus rose from the table and began to wash feet of the disciples, He was doing the work of the lowliest of servants. The disciples must have been surprised at this act of humility, that Christ, their Lord and Master. When Peter protested, Jesus said it was necessary that he wash his feet. Then Jesus said: "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me", prompting Peter, whose love for the Savior, request a complete washing. Then Jesus explained true meaning of being washed by Him. Salvation is a one-time act of justification by faith, but the lifelong process of sanctification is one of washing from stain of sin we experience through the world. We do need continual cleansing from effects of living in the flesh in a sin-cursed world. The continual washing of sanctification is done by the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives within us, through the "washing of water by the Word".(Eph.5:26) Further, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He told them, I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. As His followers, we are to imitate Him, serving one another in lowliness of heart and mind, seeking to build one another up in humility and love. the Lord who promised that true greatness in His kingdom is attained by those with a servant's heart and we will be greatly blessed. The Christian life involves both serving and being served.

Lord' table is an act of obedience: Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Wine. Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me" Covenant: "this cup is the new covenant in My blood", Participation: "Communion with the crucified and risen Jesus, Thanksgiving: "He had given thanks He broke bread", Symbol: "this is My body... this is My blood", Examination: "Let a man examine himself ..and so let him eat", Identification: "eat the Lord's Supper", Sharing: "Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation" among God's people. Proclamation: as oft as you eat-you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

The Lord's Supper is a symbol of our present relationship with Him, and a promise of what He will do in the future. The act of taking communion is of worship and remembrance of what Christ did for us and a celebration of what we receive as a result of His sacrifice. It causes us to remember and to look hope for His glorious return soon. Jesus said *he would not drink the fruit of the vine again until he came in the fullness of the kingdom.*(Mat.26:29) It is a time of anticipation of the Kingdom. There will be a great messianic "wedding supper" of royal, joyful feast.(Rev.19:19) We come to the Lord's table and we remember, we're going to do it with Him in His Kingdom. So this is symbol of our hope of final salvation, the redemption of the body at the time of the resurrection-rapture of overcomers.(Rom8:22-25)

Who is invited to participate?

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The Lord instituted two ordinances, baptism at the time of salvation which is a one-time event and the Lord's Table continuously until He comes to symbolize the believer's union with Christ. The Lord's Supper is to be the primary meeting of the church. It is an integral part of worship. The Bible instructs us that the meetings of the church are to be done properly and in an orderly manner. (1Cor.14:40) Scriptures teach that our prayer and worship should be led by the Holy Spirit. The apostles speak of breaking of bread as a daily act. *So continuing daily with one accord.* (Acts 2:46) A weekly celebration on the first day of the week. *Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread.* (Act.20:7) Also in a timeless way. *as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,* (1Co.11)

Who is invited to participate? It is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Every Christian is a member of a holy priesthood (1Pet.2:5) A priesthood is established between the worshippers and their God and that is by a sacrificial offering. We consecrate and offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. We are to offer up a sacrifice of praise to God. All who know the Lord Jesus and are walking in fellowship with Him are to join in worshipping and partaking of the bread and wine. However, someone has doubts about relationship with the Lord, then refrains from participation. (Mat.5:23-24)

When we come to the Lord's table, we focus on fact that our worship is worthy. You cannot come to the table of the Lord and then turn around and go to a pagan feast. *you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons You cannot worship at the table of the Lord and the table of demons.* (1Cor.10:20) You have to separate yourself, not be conformed to this world as lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life. By being transformed by renewing of our minds to please Him and do His perfect will. So, remember His work on the cross for our salvation. It is personal responsibility for us to participate with reverence, humility, sincerity, accepting, proclaiming God's great act of love.

Bible addresses a theme in the celebration of the Lord's Supper in 1 Cor.11:23-32. Conduct at the Lord's Supper: Communion is a way to celebrate our intimate and ongoing relationship with Jesus. We have to continue to keep this Feast with the spirit of sincerity and truth in remembering Christ's death for our sins and putting away sin (leaven) from our lives. *"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.* (1Cor.5:7,8) A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of cup. For anyone without discerning the body of the Lord eats, drinks judgment on himself. What is the body of the Lord? It is the church –gathering of called-out believers united in Christ. To take the Lord's Table in a worthy manner, mean you have forgiven all others their sins/offence against you, released them from your judgment and are the praying blessing of God upon them. (Mat.5:23) And you are right with God before you take Communion and having good conscience/peace with God and all men. Or it may allow ceremony to become a dead, formal ritual. If a person would take part the Lord's table unworthily without an honest evaluation of your own spiritual condition, without the kind of self-examination, two things result *"he is guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, he eats and drinks judgment to himself For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*

We should examine ourselves, spend time in quiet meditation, silently considering, confessing your sins. Ask the Lord to show you all in your life that might be displeasing to Him or done evil in God's sight. Ask to point out attitudes that are wrong and acts for which you have not yet made a prayer of confession. Ask yourself: Do you have any sin to confess? [Relational, Sexual, Financial, Pride, Integrity, Submission to Authority, etc.] Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate sexual thoughts? Have you hurt someone's reputation or feelings by your words? Have you given in to an addictive [lazy or undisciplined] behavior? Have you coveted anything? What temptations in thought, word, action have you faced and how did you respond? Have you failed to forgive someone? What anxieties are you facing? Have you complained/grumbled? How is your prayer life? Do you see anything hindering walk with Christ? Have you maintained a thankful heart? Now humble/confess/repent to the Lord so that you might be cleansed. Accept and believe in God's promises of forgiveness. Thank God for making atonement for our sins. Pray that we will become like Jesus and live up to God's standard of meekness and humility.

"Communion" means to be in union with. The one loaf reminds us that we are one body in Christ for we all partake. *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"* (1Cor.10:16) We gather together as brothers and sisters around the table of the Lord. We are demonstrating our common faith, commitment, concerns, love, devotion to Christ and the ministry and life to which He has called us. It signifies fellowship with Christ, experience his life (power), death (suffering) and resurrection (victory) So we may partake of the elements as one to express our unity in Christ. In the cup of the Lord, known as the cup of blessing, in which Christ purchased for us in His death, burial and resurrection. God promised a new covenant of grace and salvation. Passover we remember: *It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians but delivered our houses.* (Exo. 12:25) Lord's Supper was instituted for same reason. Through the Lamb of God—Jesus' death—God delivered us from the death, captivity, slavery to the world, Satan, sin. Praise the Lord for the plagues He used to bring us out of Egypt.

If you are with an ordained minister, pastor or elder (or online through the audio conference) those who connected to you (family, small group, house church, neighbors or friends) and that leader begin leading this segment of the service, in order to actively lead them into the presence of God through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Make sure that you examine yourself and ask God to purify your heart so you don't partake in an unworthy manner and bring down chastening of God rather than His blessing. We are commanded to put on the whole armor of God.

Welcome to the feast of the Lord. All who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to join in this meal. Praise: Start your prayer by praising the Lord. Praise Him for things He has done in your life. Praise Him for His goodness to your family and the church. Waiting on the Lord: Be silent at the presence of the Lord for some time. Sermon message: an introduction to the Lord's Supper. If the message was on faith, connect the theme of faith to Lord's Supper. Explain how partaking of the bread and wine gives us, of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Jesus said to them, "*Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*" (Joh 6:53) Jesus said "*I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world*" (Joh 6:51) Meditate crucified Christ, His suffering in the garden and endured on the cross for our sins. (Matthew 26:26-30) We can remember Jesus' death has triumphed over sin and death! With faith blood has been applied to your life. (Exo 12:3-14)

Prepare the bread and drink ready for those who will participate. You will need the elements of bread (loaf of bread) and wine (grape juice) ready before service begins. For the bread: You can use an uncut loaf of bread that is passed around to each participant. Each participant would then break a piece off of the loaf for themselves. Or you can cut up the bread into pieces and pass those out during the celebration. As you prepare the bread, pray that God would bless it and help participants see Jesus in it. For the Wine: Our wine today has alcohol content so many churches use grape juice. If using wine, you can use one cup shared by all participants to dip bread. If using grape juice individual cups are appropriate. As you prepare the wine, pray that God would bless it and help participants see Jesus through it.

When you are ready, someone read. (1Co. 11:23-29) *For I received from the Lord that which I also passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

Form for the Lord's Supper

Say: For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread (take hold of the bread in your hand), and when he had given thanks, he broke it (break the bread as you say these words) and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Do: Pass the bread to all the participants.

Say: Take, eat, remember and believe the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the forgiveness of all our sins.

Do: Eat the bread.

Say: In the same way, after 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."

Do: Pass the cup (wine or juice) to all the participants.

Say: "Take, drink, remember and believe the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the forgiveness of our sins."

Do: Share the juice or wine you have set aside, and drink the cup.

Say: A prayer summarizing the theme of the service as it relates to the Lord's Supper.

Then Celebrate in prayer or singing hymn. *And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.* (Mat. 26:29-30) You have shared in The Lord's Supper. You are His, and He is yours! Christ fulfills his promise to be with us always, until the end of the age, and assures of a meeting again drinking the new wine of the joys, which saints shall partake with the Lord Jesus in the Father's kingdom. We anticipate the promise of Jesus' return in glory.

Benediction: *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.* (2Cor. 13:14) We have had a wonderful time. Praise the Lord! The Lord bless you and keep you from all evil; he will keep your life, bring joy, peace, comfort, divine protection to those who place their trust in God.