

This Is the Lord's Supper Information We Include In Our Service Folder Each Week

LORD'S SUPPER: It is offered to repentant believers to assure them of God's forgiveness. Please prepare to receive by asking yourself **these five questions:**

1. **Bible:** It shows us our sin, tells of Jesus, and calls for repentance. **Do I believe the Bible is true?**
2. **Repentance:** It *begins in our hearts* and *shows in our lives*. **Do I desire to turn from my sins?**
3. **Salvation:** It is **by** grace **through** faith in Jesus for eternal life. **Am I trusting in Jesus for heaven?**
4. **Supper:** **Do I believe the supper is bread & body and wine & blood for the forgiveness of sins?**
5. **Unity:** We are in harmony with God – *based on our belief in His word*, and with others – *based on our common confession*. **Do I know and agree with the teachings of the LCMS** (Luth. Ch. Missouri Synod)?

This Is an Explanation

1. **Bible:** It **shows** us our sin, **tells** of Jesus, and **calls** for repentance.
 - a. Jesus Prayed to His Father: **John 17:17** "Your word is **truth**."
 - b. Get the Evidence – see this brochure: [The Bible Is True](#)
 - c. **Ask:** **Do I believe the Bible is true?**
2. **Repentance:** It **begins** in our hearts and **shows** in our lives.
 - a. Godly Sorrow Is Essential: **2 Cor. 7:10** "...the **sorrow** that is according to the **will** of God produces a **repentance** without regret, **leading** to **salvation**...."
 - b. **Ask:** **Do I desire to turn from my sins?**

3. **Salvation:** It is **by** grace **through** faith in Jesus **for** eternal life.
 - a. Regarding Jesus: **Acts 4:12** "...there is **salvation** in **no** one else; for there is **no** other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which **we must be saved**." // **Only Jesus** lived sinlessly and died sacrificially for us!
 - b. **Ask:** **Am I trusting in Jesus for heaven?**
4. **Supper:** See the passages below to discover **what** it is and **why** we receive.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 10:16** "Is the cup of blessing [wine] which we bless not a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is the bread which we break not a sharing in the body of Christ?"
 - b. Jesus Said: **Matthew 26:26-28** "'Take, eat; this is My body.' ... 'this is My blood of the covenant... **for forgiveness of sins**.'"
 - c. **Ask:** **Do I believe the supper is bread & body and wine & blood for the forgiveness of sins?**
5. **Unity:** We are in harmony with God – ***based on our belief in His word***, and with others – ***based on our common confession***.
 - a. Unity Is Important: **1 Corinthians 1:10** "I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **all agree** and that there be **no divisions** among you..."
 - b. Let's Receive Where We Know and Believe the Teachings: **1 Corinthians 10:18** "Look at the people of Israel; **are those who eat the sacrifices not partners in the altar?**"
 - c. **Ask:** **Do I know and agree with the teachings of the LCMS** (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)?

How to Learn More:

- **Request and read:** "A Simple Explanation of Christianity"
- **Request and read:** "Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation"
- **Talk / Meet** with the pastor.
- **Ask** about our Bible Basics Course.

9: How to Receive

Best Practices:

- **Bread—Body:** Into your hand **or** into your mouth. If into your hand, place one open hand on top of the other. Need gluten free? Let us know.
- **Wine—Blood:** Chalice **or** individual cup; wine **or** alcohol removed wine. If from the chalice, look forward and assist in tipping the cup.

Conclusion

At Bethlehem: We offer the Lord's Supper every Saturday and Sunday and at all festival services. May the Holy Trinity enable us to:

- Be open to what the Bible says!
- Believe with child-like faith!
- Eternally benefit through Jesus!

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PS: See 3-part sermon series "[The Lord's Supper](#)"

Scripture: New American Standard Bible, 2020 Version

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com

YouTube and Podcast: Benefit from the Bible

Facebook: Bethlehem Parma

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(Last Update: 1-26)

The Lord's Supper



- 1: Passover Connection
- 2: Sacraments Are Mysteries
- 3: Various Names
- 4: Reasons to Receive
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- 8: Preparation to Receive
- 9: How to Receive

Introduction

Dear Friend: Since unforgiven sin leads to death and hell, *God gave His Son to take away the sin of the world!*

The Lord's Supper was instituted (established) by Jesus on Good Friday, *the same day He bore our sins **and** eternal punishment **and** laid down His life*. He is now our **risen** and **reigning** Savior!

The Lord's Supper is real, important, and relevant; therefore, *please keep reading to better understand and greatly benefit!*

1: Passover Connection

In the time of Moses (1450 BC), the LORD used the blood of *unblemished lambs* to spare the physical lives of Jacob's descendants and set them free from their bondage in Egypt. He also commanded the Feast of Passover to be celebrated each year ([Exodus 11-12](#)).

In the time of Jesus, John the Baptizer referred to Jesus as *"the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* ([John 1:29](#)). *That's exactly what Jesus did when He gave His body and shed His blood!*

As the blood of lambs saved **physically**, so the blood of Jesus, saves **spiritually / eternally!**

Note: The Lord's Supper is the NT Passover!

2: Sacraments Are Mysteries

Why Are They Mysteries? The words "sacrament" and "mystery" are both derived from the Greek word: μυστήριον (mysterion)
Greek – Latin – English translations:

- **Greek** μυστήριον to **Latin** sacramentum.
- **Latin** sacramentum to **English** sacrament.
- **Greek** μυστήριον to **English** mystery.

♥ Since Sacraments Are Mysteries: **They are properly understood Biblically**, not logically:

1. Baptism: We see water and hear words, **but God is at work by the Holy Spirit**. "[God] saved us... by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit..." ([Titus 3:5](#)).
2. Lord's Supper: We see and taste bread and wine, **but Jesus' body and blood are united to the bread and wine**. "Is the cup of blessing which we bless not a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is the bread which we break not a sharing in the body of Christ?" ([1Co. 10:16](#)).

Note: The words "**not**" are the Greek word "οὐχι" (ouchi), which is used "frequently in questions with a tone suggesting that a **positive answer** ought to be self-evident..." (BW, Danker).

3: Various Names

1. Sacrament of the Altar: The word **altar** recalls **sacrifice**. The OT sacrifices kept pointing ahead to Jesus' once for all sacrifice ([Heb. 9:28](#); [1Pe. 3:18](#)).
2. Holy Communion: **+** When we partake, we share **with God**—*based on our belief in His word, and with other believers—based on our common confession*.
3. Lord's Supper: The supper is His: **He is both host and meal** ([1Co. 11:20](#)).
4. Lord's Table: His supper is from **His altar**, that is, **His table** ([1Co. 10:21](#)).
5. Breaking of Bread: **One loaf** was broken to distribute to **each person** who was receiving the supper ([Acts 2:42](#)).
6. Eucharist: A Greek word, which means **giving thanks**. Jesus took bread and gave thanks, then the cup and gave thanks ([Lk. 22:19-20](#); [Mk. 14:22-24](#)).

4: Reasons to Receive

- To "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" ([1Co. 11:26](#)).
- "...for forgiveness of sins" ([Mt. 26:28](#)).

5: Words of Institution

- Recorded In These Four Passages: [Matthew 26:26-28](#); [Mark 14:22-24](#); [Luke 22:19-20](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-25](#).
- The words used in Lutheran Churches are a **summary** of those four passages.

6: What Is Being Received

Four Different Theological Positions:

1. Roman Catholic: The bread and wine **become** the body and blood of Christ.
2. Martin Luther: The body and blood are **sacramentally** (*mysteriously*) **united** to the bread and wine.
3. John Calvin: Christ is **spiritually** present with the bread and wine.
4. Ulrich Zwingli: The bread and wine are **merely symbols** to help us remember the work of Christ.

What Matters Is What the Bible Says:

- **Here is the key passage: [1 Cor. 10:16](#):** "Is **the cup** [*wine*] of blessing which we bless not a **sharing in the blood of Christ?** Is the **bread** which we break not a **sharing in the body of Christ?**"
- **The word Sharing** is from the Greek word, κοινωνία (koinonia). It can be translated: ♦Sharing ([1Co. 10:16](#)), ♦Fellowship ([Acts 2:42](#); [2Co. 6:14, 13:13](#); [1Jo. 1:3](#)), and ♦Participation ([Phil. 1:5, 2:1](#); [Phm. 1:6](#))
- **Take note:** All four elements are received – wine, blood, bread, and body (the bread and wine do not become the body and blood; instead, they share in the body and blood).

Dr. Paul Kretzmann: "We have here the essence of the Lord's Supper in one [verse]: there are the earthly, visible elements, **bread and wine**; there are the invisible blessings, the real presence of the **body and blood** of Christ..."

Object Lesson: Four Boards, Two Locks

- Our Altar Guild places unleavened bread and wine on the altar.
- **By the power of Christ, through the**

words of institution, a sacramental / mysterious union is made (locked) between **bread and body** and **wine and blood**.

Keep these things in mind:

- We believe ♦what the Bible says OVER ♦what we see and taste.
- When we receive the bread and wine we can see, *we are also receiving the body and blood we cannot see*.
- We say, "take, eat, the body," and "take, drink, the blood" because the body and blood are MORE IMPORTANT than the bread and wine.

7: Benefit of Receiving

Christians, by the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, are ♦sorry for their sins, ♦trusting in Jesus for eternal life, and ♦aligning their lives with God's word. **They** have God's forgiveness and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

- However, since they cannot **completely stop sinning** ([Eccl. 7:20](#)), they experience **guilt** and **uncertainty**.
- Therefore, through the supper, Jesus gives them great assurance that through His finished work their sins are forgiven.

8: Preparation to Receive

The pastor of a congregation is a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God ([1Co. 4:1](#)). He is responsible to manage the mysteries in agreement with God's word.

All who desire to receive the Lord's Supper are called to prepare themselves by examining themselves: **1 Corinthians 11:28** "...a person must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup [*which are the **visible elements***]."