

PREPARATION STATEMENT:

1 Cor. 11:27-28: "...whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a person must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

Please examine yourself by asking these five questions:

1. **Bible:** Do I believe the Bible is true?
2. **Repentance:** Do I desire to turn from my sins?
3. **Salvation:** 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:** Do I agree with the contents of Luther's Small Catechism?

PREPARATION 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."

- b. **See this brochure:** [Why Is Faith in Jesus the Ticket to Heaven?](#)
 - c. **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... for forgiveness of sins.'"
 - c. **Ask: Do I believe the supper is bread & body and wine & blood for the forgiveness of sins?**
5. **Unity:** With God – *based on our belief in His word*, and with others – *based on our common confession*.
 - a. **1 Cor. 1:10** "I urge you, brothers and sisters... that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you..."
 - b. **1 Cor. 10:17** "Since there is one loaf, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf."
 - c. **Doctrinal Agreement:** See the six topics in Luther's Small Catechism.
 - d. **Ask: Do I agree with the contents of Luther's Small Catechism?**

NOT ABLE TO ANSWER "YES" OR WANT TO LEARN MORE:

- **Brochure:** Lord's Supper – [How to Benefit](#)
- **Brochure:** Lord's Supper – [Q & A](#)

- **Booklet:** [A Simple Explanation of Christianity](#), which includes the contents of Luther's Small Catechism.
- **Book:** [Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation](#) (much info in the explanation)
- **Contact the Pastor:** With your questions.
- **Course:** 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 Spirit enable us to:

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

Pastor Green – RevRLGreen@aol.com

Scripture: New American Standard Bible, 2020 Version

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com

YouTube and Podcast: Benefit from the Bible

Facebook: Bethlehem Parma

Schedule: Saturday 4; Sunday 9; 440-845-2230

Location: 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134

(Last Update: 5-26)

Lord's Supper Overview



- 1: Passover Connection
- 2: Sacraments Are Mysteries
- 3: Various Names
- 4: Reasons to Receive
- 5: Words of Institution
- 6: What Is Being Received
- 7: Benefits of Reception
- 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 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...” // *God can do the impossible!*

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*, He creates a sacramental union between **bread and body** and **wine and blood**. That is what is being taught above in [1 Cor. 10:16](#).

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.

See the other side for our worship folder statement, which is followed by a more detailed explanation of our statement.