

Saturday, 4/25/26 at 4:00 | Sunday, 4/26/26 at 9:00

# How to Benefit from the Lord's Supper?

## Part 1

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 NAS 2020

### Introduction

Dear friends: We are very blessed to be **repentant believers!** By the work of the Holy Spirit, *through God's word of Law and Gospel*, we are:

- ➔ Sorry for our sins!
- ➔ Turning from our sins!
- ➔ Trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins!

Nevertheless, we **keep** falling into sin and **keep** needing the assurance of God's forgiveness. So, we are called to ➔gather each week, ➔confess our sins, and ➔be assured of God's forgiveness through our proper reception of the Lord's Supper.

Beliefs and practices about the Lord's Supper vary widely among churches today. What beliefs and practices are correct? ***Those taught in the Bible!***

Therefore, this brochure includes these topics:

- The Words of Institution
- Proclaiming Jesus' Death
- Benefitting from the Supper
- A Summary of LCMS Teaching on the Lord's Supper

# The Words of Institution

(similar words are found in Mt, Mk, and Lk)

**1 Corinthians 11:23-25** For I [Paul] received from the Lord [Jesus] that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it [for the purpose of distributing it] and said, “This is **My body**, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way He also took the cup [the wine] after supper, saying, “This cup [wine] is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**The Contents of the Supper:** The words of institution identify Jesus’ body and blood. Then, with further study, we learn that along with the body and blood, we are also receiving bread and wine:

- 1 Corinthians 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?**”
- All four elements are received: The bread and wine do **not** become the body and blood; **instead**, they share in the body and blood. For a more detailed explanation, see “[The Lord’s Supper](#)” brochure.

## **Old Covenant – New Covenant:**

- Old Covenant: Promise and shadow: The promise of the Messiah and various shadows of His coming, for example, the weekly Sabbath Day and the sacrificial system.

**Hebrews 10:1** “...the Law... can never... make those who approach perfect.” // So, we all need Jesus!

- New Covenant: Fulfillment in Christ: He lived in our place and died for our sins. ***He did for us what we could never do for ourselves!*** Through Him God is offering us ✦forgiveness, ✦spiritual life, and ✦eternal life! **Hebrews 10:14** [But] “how much more will the blood of Christ... cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

## Proclaiming Jesus’ Death

**11:26** For as often as **you** [plural, y’all] eat this bread and drink the cup, **you** [plural, y’all] proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. // What is our public proclamation?

- Past – Jesus lived in our place and died for our sins!
- Present – We are forgiven through Jesus’ work!
- Future – Jesus’ return is scheduled and certain!

## Benefitting from the Supper

Avoid Unworthy Reception: **11:27** Therefore 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.

- What is unworthy reception? It’s being improper or careless. Imagine a balance-type scale: “**The side of the scales which holds the sacrament drops down because of its weight** while the side that holds the communicant’s attitude rises upward because of its lack of weight” (Lenski).
- The body and blood of the Lord: *They are present!*
- What does it mean to be guilty of the body and blood? When an **unworthy** person receives, he is transgressing against the body and the blood.

- How is the body and blood present? **Not** because of our faith, **but** *by the power of God through the words of institution.*

### **These topics will be covered next week:**

- The importance of self-examination!
- Being careful not to bring judgment on ourselves!
- Possible consequences of unworthy reception!

**Let Us Pray:** **Dear Lord Jesus**, TYSM for Your finished work for our salvation! **Dear Holy Spirit**, please help us to ✦faithfully gather to receive the supper and ✦rightly examine ourselves in preparation – *so that we are sure of God’s forgiveness!*

### For more info on the Lord’s Supper:

- Receive the new brochure – next week
- Read The Lord’s Supper brochure
- Read A Simple Explanation of Christianity
- Read An Explanation of the Small Catechism

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube** and **Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”  
**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915  
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230