

A Celebration of the Lord's Supper.One: To whom is this meal offered?

For those unfamiliar with Communion, here is a brief explanation.

During our service we will eat together a bit of bread and drink some wine or grape juice. We call this Communion.

Communion is also called "the Lord's Supper" as it is based upon the last meal that Jesus ate with his friends and followers. At that meal he commanded them to continue to do the same. In his use of the bread and wine he helped them to understand what happened to him later when his body was broken and his blood shed upon the cross.

The Lord's Supper, therefore, takes the members of the Church, together, to the most important place where their salvation and eternal life was won. Because of this it forms the identity of the Church and its practice. As followers of Christ we are all weak in faith, and so Christ commanded us to share Communion together in order that it might keep us focussed on who we are and so that we might be richly fed spiritually by his presence in the meal.

If you recognise your need of God's forgiveness and are seeking to follow Christ, this meal is for you and you are welcome to join in. If, however, you are unsure as to whether you wish to receive God's forgiveness *and* follow Jesus, you may wish to wait and find out more before taking Communion. If you are in a broken relationship with someone else in the church you should commit yourself to resolving the issue before taking Communion.

**All: To all people of all places at all times:
To us, here and now.**

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.**

One: So tell me the story of this table.

**All: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed,
took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it.**

One: Tell me what he said about the bread.

**All: This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.**

One: Then what did he do and say?

**All: In the same way, he took the cup and said,
'this is the new covenant sealed by my blood;
whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me.'**

One: How should we respond to this gift and command?

**All: In obedience to his command and giving thanks for his gift;
Proclaiming his greatness with all his people
and all of heaven:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!"**

One: What prayer shall we say?

**All: The prayer that Jesus taught us:
"Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen"**

One: What shall we ask of the Lord today?

**All: Pour out your Holy Spirit:
So this everyday meal becomes an eternal feast;
So that our eating and drinking unites us with Christ,
whose body and blood are given to us
in this bread and wine;
So that we know that our sins are forgiven;
So that we know that you live in us and that we live in you;
Amen.**

One: Let us come to the table together and share this meal with thanksgiving.

When you are ready please come to the table in the middle and take some bread and wine. The wine in the 'common cup' is alcoholic; in the individual cups is red grape juice.

Please remain prayerfully quiet while others are taking communion.

Once everyone has taken communion the leader will say:

“May the Peace of Christ be with us all.”

**All: Around the table, we have met
in the presence of the risen Christ.
In him we form one body.
Together may we continue to be a witness to all that he is
in his faithfulness, wisdom and salvation.
And may we go from this table at peace
in the knowledge that no trouble,
hardship, persecution or famine
shall separate us from the love of Christ. Amen**

The congregation will read together the bits in bold type

One: Why have we gathered around this table?

**All: Because of the Lord Jesus Christ: he has called us and
commanded us to eat this meal.**

One: Why is this meal so important?

**All: It tells us of his saving love for all who trust in him.
It strengthens our faith through his presence with us.
It binds us together as his Church.**