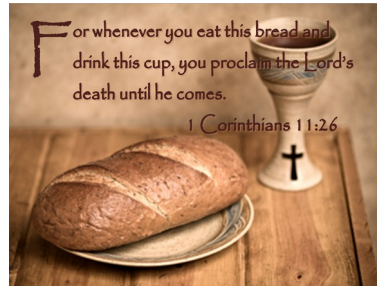


# The Lord's Supper

## Part 2



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## What is the Sacrament of the Alter

What are some names for the Lord's Supper?

The Holy Eucharist

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The Lord's Table

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The Sacrament of the Altar

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The Lord's Supper

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Holy Communion

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What does Communion mean? \_\_\_\_\_

With whom are we communing? Fellow worshipers, believers past, Jesus.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will bring them back to life on the last day. My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them. [John 6:54-56] (*Closeness to God*)

When the newly ordained priest, Martin Luther, said his first mass he was so nervous that he could hardly continue. He was struck with the terror of standing in the presence of God, and handling Christ's actual body – all while he felt himself to be utterly sinful and far from God.

[*"Martin Luther and the German Reformation"*, Rob Sorensen, ©2016 Anthem Press p. 19]

How do you feel about being that close to God? \_\_\_\_\_

How should you feel about being that close to God? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus giving the Lord's Supper is recorded in the Bible by four different people.

Matthew 26:26-28<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take this, and eat it. This is my body."<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup and spoke a prayer of thanksgiving. He gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you."<sup>28</sup> This is my blood, the blood of **the promise**. It is poured out for many people so that sins are forgiven.

Mark 14:22-24<sup>22</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it. He broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take this. This is my body."<sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup, spoke a prayer of thanksgiving, and gave the cup to them. They all drank from it.<sup>24</sup> He said to them, "This is my blood, the blood of **the promise**. It is poured out for many people.

Luke 22:19-20<sup>19</sup> Then Jesus took bread and spoke a prayer of thanksgiving. He broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "This is my body, which is given up for you. Do this to remember me."<sup>20</sup> When supper was over, he did the same with the cup. He said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the **new promise** made with my blood."

1 Corinthians 11:23-25<sup>23</sup> I passed on to you what I had received from the Lord. On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread<sup>24</sup> and spoke a prayer of thanksgiving. He broke the bread and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."<sup>25</sup> When supper was over, he did the same with the cup. He said, "This cup is the **new promise** made with my blood. Every time you drink from it, do it to remember me."

He had spoken of this New Meal before. He had been teaching them that a change was coming. This was near the beginning of His three year ministry. How do we know that?

Read Luke 9. (*This will also give you a glimpse into Jesus' heart.*)

Read: John 6

v.4 What time of year was it? Passover (Same time as Easter for us)

The people want to know if Jesus is the Messiah (though their understanding of who the Messiah would really be was confused). They wanted Jesus to do some miracle to prove He was the promised Messiah. Of course their suggestion is more food. They suggest that Jesus give them the bread-from-heaven that the Children of Israel ate during their wandering in the wilderness. They ate a special bread called Manna. [Exodus 16:31] The people wanted Jesus to give them some.

Jesus helps them see that He is the Messiah, and corrects their confusion. He says, 'you want bread from heaven. Those who ate that bread eventually died.' Then He says, 'I came from heaven. I am the true Bread from Heaven, but this Bread is My Flesh and Blood.

[John 6:51]

The people, in part, understand what He is saying, but not fully. They think He is saying if you're hungry kill and eat Me. They hear cannibalism. They think He's crazy and tell Him so. [John 6:60] This teaching is so foreign to what they thought the Messiah should be that they walk away from Jesus. 5,000 men and their families chased Jesus all the way across the Sea of Galilee, and then just give up and go home. The only ones left are the disciples, and Jesus says to them, "will you leave Me too?"

It is Peter who says:

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have come to believe, and to know, that you are the Holy One of God. [John 6:68-69]

## What do we receive at the Lord's Table?

1 Corinthians 11. You know those words:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. [1 Corinthian 11:23-26]

All of the above verses (*on page 3*) state we receive bread and wine. They also state we receive Jesus' real Body and real Blood. In fact they go so far as to say if you don't believe that's true you don't have eternal life.

Jesus told them, "I can guarantee this truth: If you don't eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you don't have the source of life in you. [John 6:53]

In this Holy Meal we receive four things: bread and Jesus' Body, wine and Jesus' Blood. Through these four elements we also receive forgiveness and eternal life.

There are some who teach the bread and wine (or grape juice) are only symbols of Jesus' Body and Blood. Is that what Jesus taught?

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This is the second Sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ Himself and He tells us what it is, what it does, and how to do it. We cannot substitute what Jesus told us with other things.

In Holy Baptism we don't Baptize with juice, motor oil, or syrup, we use water as Jesus commanded. By obeying His instructions we receive real forgiveness, and real adoption as children of God. By doing what Jesus said we can be certain we get what He says.

In the Lord's Supper we use bread and wine as Jesus commanded. Through them Jesus Christ physically touches us with His real Body and Blood. He blesses us, and we receive real forgiveness, not symbolic forgiveness, real eternal life, not symbolic eternal life, real strengthening of our faith, not symbolic strengthening of our faith.

How can this be? What does Matthew 19:26 say?

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This Holy Communion is given to us by Jesus, like Holy Baptism, to remove all doubt. It is a blessing in which we do not just perform acts and remember God's Words. In these things God comes down and touches us. He makes Himself present with us. He comes to us, we don't go to Him. It is God who peruses us. We bring nothing to the Lord's Table but humble bread, humble wine, and our humble selves. It is Jesus Christ, true God and true man, who brings His very real Body and Blood, and with them the strengthening of our faith, the forgiveness of our sins, and the gift of eternal life.

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Why do we use these words in our service? Because they are the words that the Holy Christian Church has always used since the time the New Testament, (the New Contract) began.

Paul, in chastising the congregations in Corinth. He is reminding them we must be one Church, not many churches. We are not to be divided, we are to be one. What does Paul teach them in 1 *Corinthian 11:20*?

Remember at that time they are still using the full Passover Seder, or liturgy, for this Sacred Meal, so there are three cups of wine, along with a full meal. What does he explain in 1 *Corinthian 11:21-23*?

He is teaching them about Holy Communion, about coming together in Christ for our salvation. It is here Paul reminds them of the words we still use today:

Our Lord Jesus Christ on the same night that he was betrayed...

They are words of unity not division. At the end of the Meal, at the point where they ate the Lord's Supper, they all ate from one loaf of bread. **Afikoman.** They all drank from one cup. **The Cup of Forgiveness or The Cup of Redemption.**

What gives this meal its power to forgive and save?

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Suppose the pastor of a church has fallen away from the faith and believes none of this in any way. He is just going through the motions because it's a job. When he serves the Lord's Supper, as Jesus taught it should be done, do you receive Jesus' Body and Blood?

- Is it the Lord's Supper even if the pastor is an atheist? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is it the Lord's Supper even if the person receiving it is an atheist? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Isaiah 55:8-11 say?

So this Holy Meal comes with both blessings and curses. What does 1 Corinthians 11:27 say?

The Father will hold you responsible for Jesus' murder.

What is further taught in 1 Corinthians 11:29?

What do we receive? Blessings or curses.

- For the faithful we receive Jesus' Body and Blood through which we receive eternal life and salvation.
- For the unfaithful also Jesus' Body and Blood through which they receive God's wrath and condemnation.

It is important to remember both.