

Sunday October 23, 2022 | The Lord's Supper

Today we come together to participate in the Lord's Supper. Each body of believers has a freedom in some of the details of how the Lord's Supper is to be observed. Some take it weekly. Others have a special service for it. We have felt lead to teach on the Lord's Supper when we take it on Sunday morning. This is not the only way to do it, but our goal is to take time to really reflect and meditate on what we are doing and what it represents. 3 of the 4 gospels recount the moment Jesus took the Passover Seder meal with his Apostles.

Luke 22:14-15 ESV

(14) And when the hour came, He reclined at table, and the apostles with Him.

(15) And He said to them, **"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.**

This was a tremendous moment. Jesus was going to take a meal that was central to Jewish culture and show what it had always pointed to. Jesus was going to connect dots and shows that it was always pointing to Him. The memorial feast that looked back to what God did at the Passover was actually a giant arrow pointing forward to Jesus.

What Jesus does, in this moment is so important that God had Paul give us more details to explain it and show us how we are to practice the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 11:23 ESV

(23) **For I received from the Lord** what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,

This is a passage we come to so often during the Lord's Supper. It gives us the directions and explanation of how we should partake in the Lord's supper and what it is about. One thing we can miss is that, this is Paul writing. He wasn't there when the Lord's Supper happened. He wasn't one of the apostles yet. God directly revealed this truth to Paul. It was that important for the church to understand.

1 Corinthians 11:24 ESV

(24) and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, **"This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."**

The first element of the Lord's Supper is the bread. Jesus tells us the bread represents His body. There are so many layers to what the body of Christ means. It represents who He is. Fully God and Fully man. God Himself descended to take on human flesh. The fact that Jesus, the eternal God of the universe, has a physical body is amazing.

Philippians 2:6-7 NLT

- (6) **Though He was God**, He did not think of equality with God **as something to cling to**.
 (7) Instead, **He gave up His divine privileges**; He took the humble position of a slave and **was born as a human being**. When He appeared in human form,

It shows the humility of Jesus. The willingness not to cling to His divine rights. The amount of submission, and humility this act took cannot be fathomed. Jesus who created all things, became a created human being.

His body also shows the perfect life He lived in submission to the Father.

Hebrews 10:5-7 ESV

- (5) Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, **but a body have you prepared for Me**;
 (6) in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
 (7) Then I said, '**Behold, I have come to do your will, O God**, as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book.'"

Jesus came to do the will of God the Father. He did not pursue His own will or desires, but sought to honor the Father in everything He did.

The Body also points to the Church and the union we are called to in Him.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 ESV

- (16) The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a **participation** in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, **is it not a participation in the body of Christ?**
 (17) Because there is **one bread, we who are many are one body**, for we all partake of the one bread.

As believers, we are part of the church, which is the body of Christ. He is the head, and we are the body. Partaking of communion shows the intimacy and fellowship that has been offered to us. We are part of His body.

The word Participation means:

κοινωνία, - close association, sharing, **communion, fellowship, close relationship** (It is used to describe the marital relationship as the most intimate fellowship between humans)

This is why we also call the Lord's Supper, Communion. It is meant to remind us of the intimacy and fellowship that we as the body of Christ have with each other and with Him.

1 Corinthians 11:25 ESV

(25) In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

The cup represents the blood. Jesus’ blood shed on the cross secured the New Covenant. The law was perfectly fulfilled. Redemption was secured through the blood.

Hebrews 9:11-12 ESV

(11) But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)

(12) He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves **but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**

Jesus offering His blood is what secured an eternal redemption. It was acceptable because of who He was and what He had done. **The blood was acceptable because of the body it came from.** He had lived a sinless life, and paid our penalty on the cross. Our salvation was accomplished when the Blood was offered.

Matthew 26:27-28 ESV

(27) And He took a cup, and **when He had given thanks** He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you,

(28) for **this is My blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins.**

We can be forgiven of our sins because of the blood of Jesus Christ. If you have never believed in Jesus, I urge you to do so today. We cannot offer or add anything to this sacrifice. His blood is perfect.

This is one of the reasons why we have been asked to practice The Lord’s Supper. We are meant to remember the body and the blood.

1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV

(26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death** until He comes.

When we come to these elements, we are proclaiming what Jesus accomplished on the cross. We are proclaiming His death. We are proclaiming that we could not secure or accomplish our own salvation. We cannot add to it. We cannot earn it. He did it. We proclaim Him, and what He accomplished.

καταγγέλλω to make known in public, with implication of broad dissemination, *proclaim, announce*

We are to practice this regularly until...

1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV

(26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death **until He comes.**

We proclaim His death until He comes. We are looking forward to His return. There is a future element to the Lord's Supper. Jesus made this clear, each gospel account that describes the Lord's supper He makes it very clear when He will partake of this meal again.

Matthew 26:29 ESV

(29) I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when **I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**"

Luke 22:15-16 ESV

(15) And He said to them, "**I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.**

(16) **For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."**

Revelation 19:6-9 ESV

(6) Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! **For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.**

(7) Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready;**

(8) it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

(9) And the angel said to me, "Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**" And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Revelation 19:11 ESV

(11) Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! **The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True,** and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

We believe in Open communion

If you are a believer here today you are welcome to take communion with us.

We are going to have a time of reflection

Take this time to confess any sins God convicts you of, and to meditate on the body and the blood of Jesus.

We are proclaiming His death until He comes.

After we partake in communion we will worship through singing.

Please remain after the song as the Elders have an update to share with the body.

They will dismiss the service after they talk.