

What Is The Lord's Supper And Who Should Partake?

The Lord's Supper (also called "Communion" or "the Eucharist") is a sacrament given to the Church by God. It is a visible seal of the New Covenant and a pledge of His favor and grace toward the covenant community of His redeemed. The bread and wine signify the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. Those who partake in this sacrament in true faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection receive from it spiritual nourishment. Furthermore, they share in true communion with the risen God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christ has given this sacrament to His Church as a means of grace. The benefits of The Supper do not come mechanically, but spiritually, as it is informed by the Word of God. Christ has therefore warned us, by way of the Apostle Paul, to take care to eat and drink in a proper manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-32). This means that whoever desires to partake should "examine himself". Those who do not believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and those who are living in rebellion against God should not partake. Furthermore, this is a sacrament for the Church, not for isolated individuals. So, if you confess Jesus Christ and seek to live under His gracious reign we encourage you to join yourself to a local congregation which bears the marks of Christ's Church and share this meal with us!

Visitors who are not members of this church are welcome to partake in The Supper. We request that visitors first speak with a minister or elder before the service to ensure the following three things:

- 1) You have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
- 2) You have publicly professed faith in Christ alone for salvation in agreement with the articles of the Christian faith as outlined in the Apostles' Creed; and
- 3) You are presently members in good standing of a local congregation which bears the marks of a true church, that is, a church that preaches the gospel, administers the sacraments as ordained by Christ, and exercises church discipline.

Please refer to the following confessional documents and their biblical grounds for more information on what this church believes concerning The Supper:

- The Belgic Confession of Faith Article 35 (page 868 of the *Psalter Hymnal*)
- The Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 66-68 and 75-82 (page 882)

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