

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Book of Worship §3-3

The Lord's Supper is a part of the worship of God's people. For that reason it should be celebrated ordinarily as part of a regular service of worship. The observance of the sacrament is always in conjunction with the reading and preaching of the Word, with the prayers of the people accompanied with hymns of praise. Following the preaching of the Word, the pastor, standing behind the communion table, may use words such as the following:

Since this is not the table of any one church but is the table of the Lord, any member of any branch of the Christian church who truly and sincerely repents of his or her sins, and accepts Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, is invited. Draw near with faith and take this sacrament to your comfort.

Listen to the words of the institution of his holy supper of our Lord Jesus Christ as they are delivered to us by St. Paul:

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

Prayer may then be offered. The prayer may be patterned following this outline: Praise to God for his mighty work of healing and his sustaining care; to Christ for his work of redemption and the gift of the sacrament; to the Holy Spirit for his power and encouragement and that he might use the bread and wine to nourish and sustain God's people gathered at the table. The prayer may conclude with the Lord's Prayer. The pastor may then say:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread (*at this point the pastor takes a piece of bread*) and when he had blessed and broken it (*at this point the pastor breaks the bread*) he gave it to his disciples, as I give this bread to you in his name, saying “Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you;’ do this in remembrance of me.”

Then the pastor takes the cup and holding it before the people, says:

After the same manner our Savior took the cup, and having given thanks as has been done in his name, he gave it to his disciples saying, “This is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. All of you, drink of it.”

O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who trusts in him. The gifts of God for the people of God.

The elements may then be distributed to the people in the manner used by that congregation. Following the distribution, the pastor may offer prayer giving praise and thanksgiving to God and conclude the service with a hymn and benediction.