

THE LORD'S SUPPER FOR HOME (THE ORDINANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION)

ITEMS NEEDED: One loaf of bread (any common type) whole for dividing OR cut bread into bite-size pieces, one small cup of juice per person OR one common cup of juice for dipping bread into juice, (non-alcoholic) grape juice, and (optional) a family meal of your favorite foods to eat after the ceremony.

PREPARE bread and juice for the table or for each person. Inviting all baptized Christians to partake (including their family, friends and guests), plus a bread and cup for each person administering the ordinance.



OPENING SENTENCE - (read aloud): From the time of Jesus Christ's appearances after the Resurrection, the Apostles and the early Church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:42, 46-47). Today, we continue this age-old practice of "breaking bread in our home" as we remember Jesus Christ's life, death, resurrection, and his teaching, "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that precedes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

INVOCATION - (offer a personal prayer or read this prayer aloud): - Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify your holy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - (Read the Gospel lesson for the day or read this text aloud): The Apostle wrote, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:16).

A BRIEF MEDITATION - (Share a brief reflection on the text or read this reflection aloud): In the broken bread, Christ offered to share with us His life. The Christian who comes to the Lord's table receives a share in the sinless and holy life of Christ which helps to redeem the lives of all. This bread of the Communion is a means of participation in Christ's body, the church. Likewise, in the cup Christ offered us a share in His atoning death. When we drink of the cup we declare our readiness to share His sufferings, to shed our blood, and to claim the victory of the eventual departure from this life. To participate in the death and in the life of Christ is to be identified with the triumph of His resurrection. He gave us fellowship at the most ultimate levels of existence - life and death. Every person has one of each. The emblems symbolize the redemption of life and the redemption of death. As we partake, we are identified with Christ in both.

PRAYER OF THANKS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP - (offer a personal prayer or this pray): Dear Father and Lord of us all: We thank You for this bread and cup which reminds us of Your great love for us expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior. We draw near to You in humility and reverence, confessing our sins, knowing that in You we will find forgiveness, refuge, hope, and salvation, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER IN UNISON - (pray aloud together): "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be

your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR THE BREAD - (*hold up bread for all to see and say aloud*): As the Apostles were eating with the Lord, "Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take this all of you; this is my body, broken for you. Take, eat in remembrance of me" (Mark 14:22). **Give bread to each person, and then say, "The body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven, let us eat together."** **Wait quietly for a moment of silence.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR THE CUP - (*hold up cup for all to see and say aloud*): And Jesus took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the new and everlasting covenant, which is poured out for many. Take, drink in remembrance of me" (Mark 14:23-24). **Give a cup to each celebrant, then say, "The cup of Christ, the blood of salvation, let us drink together."** **Wait quietly for a moment of silence.**

SING A HYMN (Optional) - (if musically inclined, offer to sing a hymn such as *Amazing Grace*, *Sweet Hour of Prayer*, *Blest be the Tie that Binds*, or another appropriate musical anthem).

ENJOYING TABLE TOGETHER (Optional) - **enjoy a family meal together of your favorite foods and enjoy an evening strengthening family bonds and friendships around the table.**

BENEDICTION - (at the end of meal, offer this blessing aloud): The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace (Numbers 6:24-26).

