

THE LORD'S SUPPER

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26

General Announcement

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered this morning following the ministry of God's Word, as outlined in the bulletin. All communicant members (in good standing) of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are invited to commune with us. Members of other Bible-believing churches may also commune following a brief interview with our elders to confirm their valid baptism, credible profession of faith in Christ, and active membership in a true church. If you have not yet spoken with the elders, we would kindly ask you to remain seated during the sacrament, participating by way of visual observation only. In order to schedule an interview in time for our next communion service, please notify Pastor Kuehner.

Institution, Nature, and Purpose

A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, in which symbols and actions signify Christ and the benefits of the Covenant of Grace (Rom. 4:11). A sacrament becomes a means of grace only by the working of the Holy Spirit in those who receive it by faith, in connection with God's Word. The sacraments of the New Covenant are two: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

According to the appointment of Jesus Christ, the Lord's Supper is to be observed until He comes again, in remembrance of His all-sufficient and atoning death on the cross. The physical elements of bread and wine represent the broken body and shed blood of the Savior, and are received by true believers as signs and seals of all the benefits of His sacrifice. The supper signifies and seals remission of sins, nourishes our souls to grow in Christ, and is a solemn pledge of our union and communion with Him and with each other as members of His body, the Church. It assures us that God is faithful to fulfill the promises of the Covenant of Grace, and it calls us to a

renewed commitment to obey and serve the Lord in gratitude for His salvation.

Christ Himself is present by His Spirit at the Supper to make it truly a means of grace for those who receive it in faith. Those who partake do so in thankful remembrance that the body of Christ was broken for them, and His blood shed for their sins. They rejoice in hope, anticipating the completion of their redemption in that Day when they share in the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Exhortation, Warning, and Invitation

It is the duty of the church to warn you that if you do not trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, or if you are living an ungodly, disobedient life, and have not genuinely repented, you should not partake of the Lord's Supper lest you eat and drink condemnation to yourself (1 Cor. 11:27-32). The Lord's Supper is for repentant and believing sinners, who, after due self-examination, come confessing Jesus Christ alone as their Savior and Lord.

This warning is not designed to keep the humble and contrite away from the Lord's Supper. On the contrary, the Supper is a means of grace offered to sustain weak pilgrims on their journey through the wilderness of this life. We, who come to partake of the symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood, come as sinners whose only hope is the grace of God in Christ. We come in a worthy manner if we recognize that, in ourselves, we are unworthy sinners who need a Savior, if we discern His body given for our sins, if we hunger and thirst after Christ and His perfect righteousness, giving thanks for His grace, trusting in His merits, feeding on Him by faith, and renewing our covenant with Him and His people.

If you are prepared to come in this way, then hear the Lord's words of gracious invitation from Psalm 81:10 (NKJV):

**I am the LORD your God,
Who brought you out of the land of Egypt;
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**