



Statement on Holy Communion/The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

For further study, see [Matthew 5:23-24](#); [Matthew 10:32](#); [Matthew 18:15-35](#); [Matthew 26:26-29](#); [1 Corinthians 11:17-34](#). Faith in Christ and His word is necessary for a blessed reception including Baptism in the name of the Trinity and faith in [1] Christ as Savior, [2] Jesus' clear words that the Sacrament is His body and blood, [3] the Lord's promise that in the Sacrament his or her sins are forgiven, and [4] receipt of the promised forgiveness reaffirmed and strengthened in his or her union with Christ and other Christians. The unbaptized and uninstructed person who does not yet know or believe in Christ and His promises is unprepared and should not commune. The unrepentant person who does not seek Christ's forgiveness for sins— either general or particular—or refuses to forgive someone is unprepared and should not commune. The doubting person who denies or is unconvinced of what Jesus says of His bodily presence in the sacrament or its promised forgiveness is unprepared and should not commune.

Prayer Before Communion

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

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