

Lord's Supper: Form 2

RCNZ

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Beloved in the Lord, it is our joyful privilege and solemn duty to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Hear the words of the apostle Paul with respect to this supper: "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.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."¹

Use one or more of the following four parts:

Part A—Remembering Christ's sacrifice

When Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me,"² he ordained this holy supper as a perpetual memorial of his death. The apostle Paul also teaches us that as often as we eat the bread and drink the cup we "proclaim the Lord's death."³ As we eat and drink we declare that our Lord Jesus was sent by the Father into the world, took upon himself our flesh and blood, and bore the wrath of God on the cross for us. We also confess that he came to earth to bring us to heaven, he was condemned to die that we might be pardoned, he died for us that we might live through him, and he was once forsaken by God that we might forever be accepted by him.

The sacrament thus confirms God's abiding love and covenant faithfulness. It is a seal of God's promises and assures us that we belong to his family. Let us therefore eat and drink, believing that God will always love us, accept us as his children, and keep all his promises to us for the sake of Jesus Christ his Son.

Part B—Union with Christ

[Moreover] As we eat the bread and drink the cup, we are fed with our Lord's crucified body and shed blood by his Spirit, through whom the body and blood of our Lord give life-giving nourishment to our souls. Thus Christ unites us with himself and so imparts the precious benefits of his sacrifice to all who partake in faith.

The holy sacrament is also a means of grace that unites us with one another in the bond of the Spirit. For the apostle says that "we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."⁴ Thus, even as Christ unites us with himself, he strengthens the bond of communion between us, his children.

Part C—Christ's return

The remembrance of our Lord's death [also] revives in us the hope of his return. Since he commanded us to do this until he comes, the Lord assures us that he will come again to take us to himself. As we share now in the Lord's Supper, we are assured that we shall one day see him face to face, and rejoice in the glory of his appearing. Our Lord Jesus will surely do what he has promised.

Part D—Confessional teaching

Appropriate segments of teaching regarding the Lord's Supper from our confessions may be used (Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 75–79, 81–82; Belgic Confession 33, 35; Westminster Confession of Faith 27, 29).

Invitation

For all who live in rebellion against God and in unbelief, this bread and wine will only bring further condemnation. If you do not yet confess Jesus Christ and seek to live under his gracious reign, the Scriptures warn you to abstain.⁵

However, all who repent and believe are invited to this sacred meal, not because you are worthy in yourself, but because you are clothed in Christ's perfect righteousness. Do not allow the weakness of your faith or your failures in the Christian life to keep you from this table, for it is given to us because of our weakness and because of our failures—in order to increase our faith by feeding us with the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Let us draw near to his table, then, believing that he will strengthen us in faith, unite us in love, and establish us more firmly in the hope of his coming. "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."⁶

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for all the blessings of your grace. Above all we thank you for the most precious gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. We praise you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, for the gospel of reconciliation, for the church universal, for the ministry and the sacraments of the church, and the gift of eternal life.

Gracious Father, by your Spirit feed our souls with the crucified body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant us the full assurance of your grace and fill our hearts with humble gratitude for your rich mercy. Unite us more fully with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, and with each other. Enable us, in newness of life, to pledge ourselves in service to Christ and others. Invigorate our hearts with living hope as we look forward to the coming of our Saviour in glory.

Answer us, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying:

Version A

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Version B

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.

Your kingdom come, your will
be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
And lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.

Optional: As we draw near to the table of our Lord, let us confess
our Christian faith:

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell⁷
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

I believe a holy catholic⁸ church, the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

At this point the minister should indicate who may partake of the sacraments according to synodical regulations and local practice.

Having approached the table, the minister shall say:

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."⁹ And elsewhere, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty ... Whoever comes to me I will never drive away."¹⁰ Jesus also encouraged us with these words: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."¹¹

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, let us lift up our hearts to the Lord; let us lift them up to the God of our salvation.

As he breaks the bread, the minister shall say:

"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.'"¹²

At the appropriate time, the minister shall say:

Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

As he takes the cup, the minister shall say:

"Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"¹³

At the appropriate time, the minister shall say:

Take, drink, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

When the communion is completed, the minister may read an appropriate passage of Scripture, such as the following:

Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and
compassion.”¹⁴

God deserves the greatest praise. And so we say with the psalmist:
“Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.”¹⁵

With all of God’s people, here and everywhere, we declare: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”¹⁶ And, “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!”¹⁷ Amen.

One day every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them will sing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!”¹⁸

Prayer

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we offer you our most humble and hearty thanks that you have shown mercy to us. Thank you for giving us your Son to be our saviour.

We praise you for giving us this opportunity to declare his death and share it through the holy sacrament. We praise you for uniting us more fully with the body of Christ, and for assuring us that we are heirs of your heavenly kingdom.

May our commemoration of his death increase our faith, renew our hope, and strengthen our love. Enable us always to live for him who gave his life for us.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

¹ 1 Corinthians 11:23–26.

² Luke 22:19.

³ 1 Corinthians 11:26.

⁴ 1 Corinthians 10:17.

⁵ 1 Corinthians 11:27–32.

⁶ Revelation 1:5b–6.

⁷ That is, on the cross Jesus suffered the agony of hell which our sins deserved (cf. Heidelberg Catechism Q. 44).

⁸ That is, God's people through all times and places (cf. Heidelberg Catechism Q. 54).

⁹ Matthew 11:28–29.

¹⁰ John 6:35, 37b.

¹¹ Matthew 5:6.

¹² 1 Corinthians 11:23b, 24.

¹³ Matthew 26:27–28.

¹⁴ Psalm 103:1–4.

¹⁵ Psalm 145:21b.

¹⁶ Revelation 4:11.

¹⁷ Revelation 5:12.

¹⁸ Revelation 5:13.