

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Luke 22:14-20

John 6:52-58

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How would you describe the meaning and practice of the Lord's Supper (also known as communion or the Eucharist) to a new believer or non-Christian?
- What requirements do you think need to be met in order to celebrate the Lord's Supper? How often do you celebrate it with your religious community?

Celebrating the Lord's Supper or Communion is an essential part of the Christian life. Yet sadly, since all Christians do not agree about what happens during the celebration or how it should be celebrated, the practice of Communion has led to many divisions within the body of Christ. Studying the scripture passages that inform our practice of the Lord's Supper help us to better understand God's purpose for this holy sacrament, how it can bring us into communion with Jesus Christ, and how we can find unity in it, despite our differences.

Listen: [*The Lord's Supper*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In your experience has celebrating the Lord's Supper been a passive activity or have you felt like you were actively participating in it? What about your experience led you to this conclusion?
- Why do you think the Lord's Supper has caused so much division between Christians? What do you believe is necessary for a person to believe or do in order to participate in Communion?
- How would you respond to these questions posed by guest Jim Brownson in segment 2: *"How do you experience Jesus being present when you take communion? What does that do in your life and how does that actually shape who you are?"*
- In segment 3, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discuss with Jim the communal nature of the Lord's Supper, noting that the sacraments are not private practices, but rather are meant to be practiced communally within the body of Christ. How can partaking in the Lord's Supper together benefit a community of believers? How can this observance benefit individuals? What does it teach us about God's purposes for us?

Related Passages

- **Matthew 26:26-28**

- **Mark 14:22-24**
- **Colossians 3:1-4**

Conclusion

Close your time of reflection by reading Colossians 3:1-4 and adapting this prayer, a prayer of response to the celebration of the Lord's Supper, into your own words.

*Lord God,
In gratitude, in deep gratitude*

*For this moment, this meal, these people,
We give ourselves to you.*

Take us out to live as changed people

Because we have shared the living bread

And cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us,

Enable much by us, encourage many through us.

*So Lord, may we live to your glory,
Both as inhabitants of earth*

And citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

(adapted from The Worship Sourcebook, Section 8.5.2.3)

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-lords-supper>

Printed on April 25, 2024