

CALVARY CHURCH LIFE



COMMUNION

Remembering
Christ
Together



COMMUNION

Communion is a sacred act of worship through which followers of Jesus Christ remember, proclaim, celebrate, and anticipate the gospel. It is a visible expression of our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and our continued dependence upon him.

Communion Explained

Communion is one of two ordinances Jesus commanded his followers to observe. Baptism publicly identifies a believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19–20; Romans 6:1–4). Communion is the ordinance through which believers remember and proclaim Christ's sacrifice until he returns.

Through communion, believers remember salvation is possible only through the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ. The bread and cup are visible signs which point us to Christ's body given for us and his blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive them in faith, we remember and proclaim Christ's sacrifice and the new covenant established through his blood. As we participate, we look back with gratitude to the cross, look inward with humility and repentance, and look forward, with hope, to the return of our Savior.

Communion does not earn, contribute to, or complete a person's salvation. Rather, it is an act of worship and obedience for those who have already placed their faith in Jesus Christ. It celebrates God's grace and reminds us we belong to Christ and to one another as members of his body, the church.

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

Luke 22:19-20

The Passover Fulfilled in Christ

Communion is deeply connected to the Passover God established for his chosen people in the Old Testament. At the first Passover, God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt through the sacrifice of a lamb whose blood provided protection and deliverance (Exodus 12). Each year, the Jewish people remember his faithfulness and look forward to his continuing work of redemption.

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples and revealed its ultimate fulfillment in himself. Taking the bread and the cup, he gave them deeper meaning, pointing to his own body and blood given for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26–28; Luke 22:19–20). Jesus is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself as the perfect sacrifice for the salvation of all who believe (1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18–19).

Who May Participate in Communion?

Communion is intended for those who have personally trusted in Jesus Christ alone for salvation and desire to honor him as Savior and Lord. Throughout Scripture, participation in the Lord's Supper is connected to a person's relationship with Christ and their identification with the body of believers. Those who participate should do so with genuine faith, humility, and a desire to honor Jesus as Lord.

At Calvary Community Church, we welcome all believers who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord to participate in communion.



Why Do We Observe Communion?

We observe communion in obedience to Christ's command (Luke 22:19) and to remember, proclaim, and celebrate the gospel.

We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

Jesus instituted communion on the night before his crucifixion. As he shared the bread and the cup with his disciples, he pointed them to his coming sacrifice.

The bread reminds us Jesus willingly gave his body for us. The cup reminds us his blood was poured out to establish the new covenant and provide forgiveness of sins (Luke 22:19–20). Through communion, we remember the love of Christ displayed at the cross and the price he paid to redeem us.

We Celebrate God's Grace

Communion reminds us salvation is not earned by our efforts but received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9).

As we come to the Lord's Table, we acknowledge our complete dependence on God's mercy and grace. Jesus accomplished what we could never accomplish on our own. Through his death and resurrection, we receive forgiveness, reconciliation with God, and new life.

We Examine Our Hearts

Self-examination does not mean determining whether we are worthy of receiving communion. None of us comes because we are worthy; we come because Christ is worthy and we depend upon his grace. Rather, self-examination calls us to recognize sin, pursue reconciliation, and participate in the Lord's Supper in a manner which honors Christ and recognizes the unity of his body. Scripture teaches believers to approach communion with reverence and self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:27–29).

For 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 Corinthians 11:23-26

We Celebrate Our Unity in Christ

Communion is not only a personal act of worship but also a celebration of the unity believers share as the body of Christ.

Because we are saved through the same Savior and welcomed into the same family of God, communion reminds us we belong to one another. We gather around the same gospel, united by the same Lord and strengthened by the same grace.

We Anticipate Christ's Return

Jesus told his disciples that he would not drink from the fruit of the vine again until he drank it with them in his Father's kingdom (Matthew 26:29). Likewise, Paul teaches that whenever we partake of communion, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:26). Communion therefore not only remembers Christ's sacrifice but also looks forward with hope to the return of our King.

How Does Salvation Relate to Communion?

Communion does not create or maintain our salvation. It celebrates the salvation God has already accomplished through Jesus Christ. We remember we were separated from God because of sin, Christ died and rose again for our salvation, and through faith in him we receive forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life. Communion continually directs our hearts back to the sufficiency of Christ's finished work.

For a further explanation, see *Salvation: Knowing Christ and New Life in Him*.



Approach Communion

Communion should be approached with faith, reverence, repentance, and gratitude..

With Faith

Those who participate should have placed their trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Communion celebrates the relationship believers already have with Christ.

With Reverence

Because communion represents Christ's sacrifice, it should never be approached casually. We come with reverence for God's holiness and gratitude for Christ's sacrifice.

With Repentance

Communion provides an opportunity to confess sin and remember the forgiveness and restoration found in Christ. Believers should come with humble hearts that are willing to be shaped by God's grace.

With Gratitude

The Lord's Supper is ultimately a celebration. We remember the depth of God's love, the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice, and the hope we have through his resurrection.



COMMON QUESTIONS

Is communion required for salvation?

No. Salvation is accomplished completely by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). Communion does not save us or add to the work Christ has already completed.

How often should communion be observed?

Scripture does not prescribe a specific schedule for communion. The early church observed it regularly as they gathered together (Acts 2:42). At Calvary Community Church, communion is typically observed on the first Sunday of each month and at other special services throughout the year.

Can children participate in communion?

Children who have genuinely placed their faith in Jesus Christ and understand the meaning of communion may participate. Parents and church leaders should help them understand the significance of the Lord's Supper and encourage them to approach it with faith and reverence.

What if someone is struggling with sin?

Communion is not reserved for those who have achieved spiritual perfection. It is for believers who recognize their need for Jesus. Those struggling with sin should come to Christ with humility, confess their sin, and seek his forgiveness and restoration.

What if someone cannot physically participate?

If a physical limitation prevents someone from receiving communion in the usual way, the church will gladly make accommodations so they may participate meaningfully.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

SUMMARY

- Communion is an ordinance Jesus Christ commanded his followers to observe in remembrance of him.
- Communion remembers Christ's sacrifice, proclaims the gospel, and anticipates his return.
- Communion does not earn or contribute to salvation, which is accomplished solely by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Communion is for those who have placed their trust in Christ and desire to honor him through worship and obedience.
- Communion provides an opportunity to remember Christ's sacrifice, examine our hearts, celebrate God's grace, and strengthen our unity as the body of Christ.
- Communion reminds believers their hope is found not in their own righteousness but in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

As we gather for communion, our prayer is every believer will grow deeper in gratitude for God's grace, stronger in faith, and more committed to living as a faithful follower of Jesus until the day he returns.

