

COMMUNION

This important symbol (also called “the Lord’s Supper”) reflects our LOVE FOR THE LORD. It is not to be taken lightly, because it gives us a sense of the Lord’s Presence each time we partake of it. Here at PCC, we celebrate Communion as a Church on the first Sunday of each month.

The disciples shared Communion with Jesus for the last time while He was here on earth at the “Last Supper” (also called by the Jews “The Feast of Passover.”) This was a meal the Jews celebrated annually to remember how the “Angel of death” had “passed over” the homes of the Jewish people in Egypt if they had the Blood of a Lamb spread over their doorway. **(Exodus 12:1-12)**

It was a symbol (a type) of what the Messiah would do when He came. He was going to shed His blood and cover the sins of the people so that they would no longer be under the sentence of death.

The disciples understood that it was going to happen someday. However, at this meal, Jesus explained that it was now occurring in their very presence!

Let’s look at one account of this story in **Matthew 26:26-29**:

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.”

We do not believe that each time we eat the bread and drink the cup, we are literally eating His flesh and drinking His blood. Instead, this is a symbol, reminding us of what the Lord did for us when He died on the cross for our sins.

Paul warns the church at Corinth about the seriousness and importance of this celebration in his letter in

I Corinthians 11:23-31: *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In 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.” ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

²⁷*So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.*

Have you ever received communion? What does it mean to you? Can you think of a particularly memorable time when you celebrated this event? What should it mean to us as His Church?