

Preparing for Communion

Preparations for a job or a journey are often of as much importance as the actual performance of the task or making the journey.

Now if preparation for the tasks of this life is important, preparation for the worship of God is of equal importance. The Bible often reminds us of the need to prepare for the act of coming into the presence of the living God. The Israelites were required to provide themselves with a proper offering before they came to the Tabernacle to worship. The necessity for careful preparation for spiritual exercises is powerfully proclaimed in the words of Amos: “Prepare to meet your God, oh Israel.”

In a special way we come into the presence of God when we come to the Lord's supper. The bread presents to us the body of our Savior in which he bore the burden of our guilt. The wine speaks of his blood spilled to wash away our pollution. Together they show the Son of God dying in our place. But not only do we have before us the symbols of our Lord's body and blood, we have his own assurance that he is truly present in them. When in faith we eat and drink at the Lord's table we in fact join ourselves in close communion with him who is our Lord and our God.

How shall we prepare for this blessed, yet solemn encounter? Paul says, “Let a man examine himself and so let him eat ... and drink.” Dare we come without confession of our sins—those very sins which caused this blood to flow? Do we presume to come without a fresh acknowledgment of our trust in the perfect righteousness of our mighty Redeemer? Shall we be guilty of coming with minds filled with thoughts of other things than the supreme privilege of meeting with the lover of our souls? Prepare and come.

*And he took bread, and
gave thanks, and broke
it, and gave it to them,
saying, This is my body
which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance
of me.*

Luke 22:19

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise-Insert

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 372

“Praise Waits for Thee in Zion”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 247

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 146

“Break Thou the Bread of Life”

Sermon Text

Luke 22:31-34

Sermon

JESUS'S PRAYER FOR HIS DISCIPLE

THE LORD'S TABLE

Hymn of Preparation # 426

“Till He Come!”

Celebrating the Supper

*Hymn of Response # 271

“Sing, Choirs of New Jerusalem”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today, 12:30pm. Potluck luncheon following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Sundays, November 17 and 24. Thank Offering 2024-*Rejoice in the Lord Always*. Each year the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church sets a Worldwide Outreach budget for the following year which represents the denomination's commitment to missionary and educational work. Each year the denomination has a Thank Offering to help meet that budget. If you wish to designate your gift for the Thank Offering, you may simply mark your check “Thank Offering.”