

HOW MANY WAYS DO WE TAKE COMMUNION AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAS VEGAS?

There are several ways in which worshippers may be invited to participate in the sacrament in this church:

- By passing the trays to those seated in the pews. Worshippers eat the bread when it is served and hold the cup until all have been served. This is symbolic of the individual and corporate nature of the sacrament.
- By coming forward to receive the elements. In this way the people of God symbolically come to the Table.
- By Intinction. This may be done by coming forward or by remaining seated. The bread is torn and dipped into the cup. This way both elements are consumed together.

CAN THE LORD'S SUPPER OCCUR OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP?

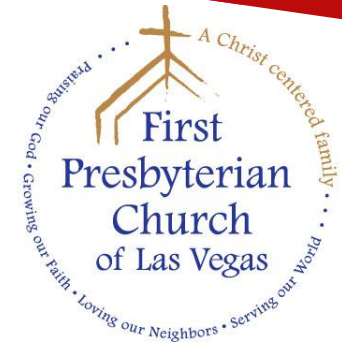
The Lord's Supper may be observed in connection with the visitation of the sick and those isolated from public worship as a means for extending the church's ministry to them. On all such occasions of the celebration of the Sacrament, the Word shall be read and proclaimed.

Requests for homebound communion are made by calling the church office.



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First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas
1515 W. Charleston Blvd.
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The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*"...For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."
I Corinthians 11:26*

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The following information of First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, has been prepared to answer some of your questions about the Lord's Supper commonly called the Sacrament of Communion.

WHAT DOES THE LORD'S SUPPER MEAN?

The Lord's Supper is the act of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. During His earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with His followers as a sign of community and acceptance.

ISN'T THE LORD'S SUPPER A GRIM REMINDER OF CHRIST'S DEATH?

The New Testament describes the meal as one that unites us with one another and Christ in joyful expectation of the coming Kingdom of God.

IN THE LORD'S SUPPER WE...

- Praise God for all that God has done and is doing in the world.
- Remember the death, resurrection, and exultation of our Lord.
- Are renewed and empowered by the promises of God.
- Are sealed in the covenant of grace.
- Are united with the faithful in heaven and on earth.
- Are nourished in order to become what God intends us to be.

WHO CAN RECEIVE COMMUNION?

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all Christians, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. In preparing to receive this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the Table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.

Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity and faith development.

HOW OFTEN CAN IT BE OFFERED?

The Book of Order states that The Lord's Supper is to be observed on Sunday, in the regular place of worship, and in a manner suitable to the particular occasion and local congregation. It is appropriate to celebrate the Lord's Supper as often as each Sunday.

It may also be celebrated at other times with prior permission of the Session.

At First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas regular celebration of the Lord's Supper occurs on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month.

WHO DETERMINES WHEN COMMUNION CAN BE SERVED IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PC(USA)?

The Church Session is responsible for authorizing all observances of the Lord's Supper in our church.

CAN ANYONE SERVE COMMUNION ?

The Book of Order requires that communion be administered by an ordained minister of The Word and Sacrament. In this church, elders and deacons normally serve the elements to the congregation.

DO WE EAT AND DRINK THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST?

Presbyterians do not believe we eat and drink the actual body of Christ. Rather the elements are a reminder of the sacrifice He made for us. The roots of the meal go back to the Passover, when the lamb was slaughtered and blood placed on the door posts so that the angel of death would pass over the houses of the Israelites (Exodus 12). Jesus became the paschal lamb who frees us from sin and death.

IN WHAT WAYS CAN I PREPARE FOR COMMUNION?

It is appropriate to approach the sacrament in a spirit of prayer and commitment. It is also important to consider changes in our lives which need to take place in order to be what God expects us to be.

