

Welcome to the Celebration of the Lord's Supper



**CHRIST CHURCH
VENTURA**

We have found that our manner of serving the elements is especially helpful and meaningful to us as believers in a busy and impersonal world. This way of participation may be new for you, but we believe you will find it to minister to you deeply.

We also understand that the proper administration of the sacrament requires the preaching of the Word of God.

This communion sacrament is a sign and seal of the grace of God in Jesus Christ. It is a sacrament for the people of God and is "the Gospel for our eyes" as the Word of God is the Gospel for our ears.

We believe in the real presence of Christ at this sacrament. That is, we believe that Christ is present by His Spirit in the administration of the elements of bread and wine.

When we use the biblical language of "eating the body and drinking the blood of the Lord Jesus" (see John 6:51-58), we understand that, just as we derive our forgiveness from Him, so we derive our spiritual sustenance from Him. He feeds us, not with bread and wine that have been changed into His body, but with Himself as He is communicated to us by His Spirit.

Therefore, all persons who know that they are sinners and have trusted in Christ alone to forgive their sin and restore them to fellowship with God are commanded to come to this table. We come not because of who we are, but because of who Christ is and what He has done for us.

Please note the following guidelines which will help us all to honor the Lord Jesus and benefit from this sacrament.

If you are not a Christian, we encourage you to come forward with the others in the congregation and allow a pastor or elder to pray with you. While Scripture prohibits us from serving you the elements, it is our sincere desire to minister to you. We further encourage you to speak to the pastor following the service if you have questions or needs of any kind. We especially encourage you to speak with us about the good news of the Gospel of forgiveness and freedom in Jesus.

COMMUNION

Because we are covenantal, we encourage the participation of our children in this service. We invite the whole family to come forward so that the pastor is able to pray for those children who do not yet participate. Children who desire instruction are offered a Communicants Class and upon completion may become members of the church. Baptized children who have not yet joined the church may still participate in the Lord's Supper if they have met with the pastor of the church to express their faith in Christ. If you believe that your child has trusted Christ, but he or she is not yet a member, please see the pastor so he can arrange to meet with you and your child.

Visitors and newcomers, to Christ Church Ventura who have trusted in Christ alone for salvation and are baptized are encouraged to participate in this sacrament. If you have children who are believers and participate in the Lord's Supper in your home church, please indicate to the pastor who among your family may participate.

May you be greatly encouraged as you come to the Lord's Table, remember His death, renew your devotion, and feed upon Him in your hearts by faith!

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