

# Table Preparation and Invitation

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is to be observed until He comes again, in remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself which He offered upon the cross. The physical elements of bread and wine represent the true body and blood of the Savior, and are received by true believers as signs and seals of all the benefits of His sacrifice.

## Examination

With these glorious truths in mind, and with a desire to see the entire Body of Christ commune with Him and receive His benefits, we are reminded of the duty of every believer to examine himself before communing at the Table of the Lord.

The Apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 11:23-28, "The Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

After due self-examination, the Session of the Los Angeles Reformed Presbyterian Church would like to invite all who have "prepared themselves, by examining themselves of their being in Christ; of their sins and wants; of the truth and measure of their knowledge, faith, repentance, love to God, and to brethren, love to all men, forgiving

those who have done them wrong; of their desires after Christ, and of their new obedience; and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation and fervent prayer.” (Q.Larger Catechism 171)

## **Invitation to Commune**

Since this is not OUR Table, but the LORD's Table, the invitation to commune extends beyond our own congregation's members:

We would invite all who are baptized communicant members in good standing of any branch of the Reformed Presbyterian Church to commune with us by letting the Session know who you are and to which congregation you belong.

We would invite all who are baptized communicant members in good standing of any of the churches within the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) to commune with us by letting the Session know who you are and to which congregation you belong.

We would also invite any baptized communicant member in good standing of another like-minded Christian church to talk with the Session before the day of communion to share your confession of Christ and your understanding of the Christian faith.

Any other first time visitors or casual visitors are asked to participate by observing and mediating upon the grace offered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our prayer and desire that the flesh and blood of our Lord be made effectual to all who hear and see the Gospel preached in this congregation.

If you would like to meet with one or more members of the Session to discuss your relationship to Jesus Christ or to request a seat at the

Table, please feel free to contact Pastor Eshelman to set up a time to talk ([n.p.eshelman@gmail.com](mailto:n.p.eshelman@gmail.com) or 323.356.5717).

May your week of meditation and preparation on this very important means of grace prove to be effectual as you anticipate the flesh and blood of our glorious Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Warmly,

The Los Angeles Reformed Presbyterian Church Session