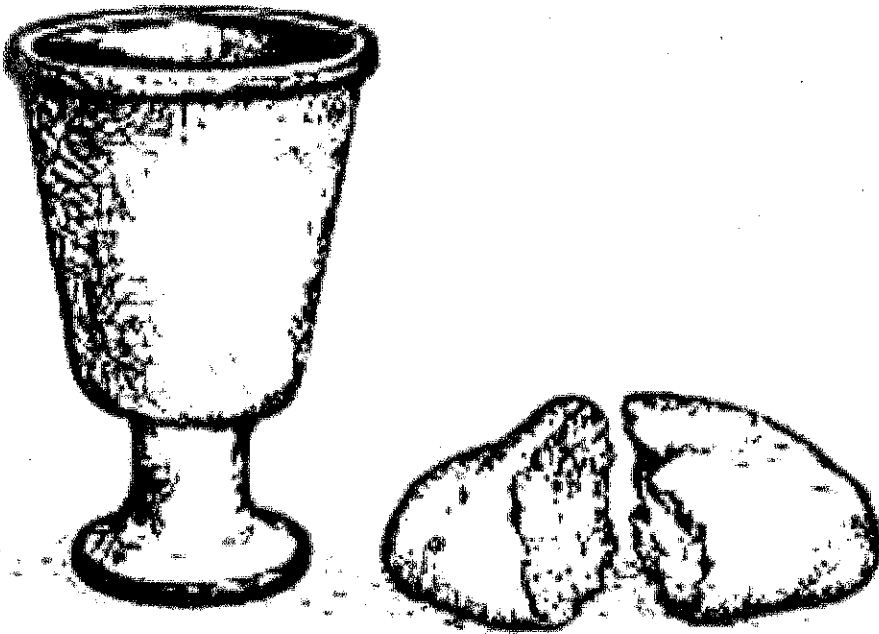


Old First's Home Service of the Lord's Last Supper, Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020

The Maundy Thursday service of the Last Supper is the one time that Christians often have communion in conjunction with eating a whole meal. So simply stay at the table after dinner, and, after or instead of desert, share the bread and the cup.

Jesus was at a celebratory Passover meal with his followers when he took bread, have a joyous meal beforehand -- God frees us from all that imprisons or plagues us.



Bread: Wonder, matzoh, rolls, a cracker -- they all work.

The cup, any cup will do, but the tradition is a goblet. We don't use wine at church, but there's no reason you couldn't at home. Or grape juice. Or really, any juice.

Even if you are alone, please read the words out loud and use the first person plural "we": you are sharing this with the whole church.

Opening Prayer

We thank you, Lord for the food we have received. And we thank you for the bread and the cup we are about to receive. Let us remember the love of Jesus, gathered at Table with his friends. May we join them now. *Silence.*

Invitation

This is the meal Jesus prepared for us.

We come to this table, not because we must, but because we may.

Not because we are full, or fulfilled, but because in our emptiness,

We stand in need of God's mercy and assurance.

We come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence, and to pray for a spirit.

We come to this table, as we are. We gather as sisters, brothers, with friends, as the church,

To partake and share. This table is spread for us that we might again know Jesus

Who loves us and gives himself for us. *Silence*

Consecration of the Bread and the Cup

By the power of your Holy Spirit, dedicate this bread and this cup to your purposes.

May they show us and teach us the love and faithfulness of Jesus.

By that same power, bless us and increase our love and faithfulness too.

Sharing the Body and the Blood

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread. He blessed it and gave thanks. He broke it, and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

The same way after supper, Jesus took the cup. He blessed it and gave thanks, and said, "This cup is the new covenant poured out in my blood. As often as you drink of it, do so in remembrance of me."

The bread is taken, shared. It may either be dipped in the cup, or the cup may be taken separately.

Silence.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, coming to your Table, we receive more gifts than we deserve. We give thanks for Jesus who became a servant for our sake, humbling himself, faithful to the demands of love, even in the face of betrayal. Strengthen our faith that we may follow him. All this in his name, and as he teaches us to pray...

The Prayer of our Savior