

The Lord's Supper: A Simple Pattern

Adapted from: Baptist Union of Great Britain, *Gathering for Worship: Patterns and Prayers for the Community of Disciples* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2005), pp.14-17.

There are PowerPoint slides to use with this pattern should the Minister or other leading communion wish to use it to enable the congregation to follow and respond accordingly.

This pattern is a short form of the Lord's Supper for use in Sunday worship, or on other occasions such as with those who are sick. In the gathered worship of the church the Lord's Supper will be preceded by prayer, praise and the preaching of the word. On other occasions, the elements having been prepared, the minister may begin the service with an invitation, beginning with words of Scripture such as

Gospel Words

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. *John 6.35*

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11.28–30*

Invitation to the Table

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.
Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,
but because you need mercy and help.
Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.
Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.
Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

Prayer

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Institution

The minister may lift, or point to, the bread and the wine when they are mentioned in the words of institution.

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:

For I received from the Lord
what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took a loaf of bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said,
'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way he took the cup also, 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.

1 Corinthians 11.23–26

Thanksgiving

An extempore prayer of thanksgiving should be offered or a prayer such as

Loving God,
we praise and thank you
for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.
We thank you for his life and ministry,
announcing the good news of your kingdom
and demonstrating its power
in the lifting of the downtrodden,
and the healing of the sick,
and the loving of the loveless.
We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross
for the redemption of the world,
and for your raising him to life again,
as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.
We give you thanks for this bread and wine,
symbols of our world
and signs of your transforming love.
Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,
that we may be renewed
into the likeness of Jesus Christ
and formed into his Body.
This we pray in his name and for his sake. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

The bread may now be lifted and broken with the words

Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you;
do this in memory of me'.

Sharing the Bread

When the minister has broken the bread and placed a portion on each plate, the bread shall be distributed with words such as

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The Lifting of the Cup

The cup may now be raised in full view of the congregation with such words as

In the same way,
he took the cup after supper, and said:
'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in memory of me.' *1 Corinthians 11.25*

Sharing the Wine

The wine is distributed. If individual glasses are used and the wine is retained to be drunk together, then the minister may say

Drink this and remember that Christ's blood was shed for you
and be thankful.

Words of Acclamation and Prayer

After all have received the wine and after a period of silence, sentences and prayers may be used, such as

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.
Your resurrection we confess.
Your final coming we await.
Glory be to you, O Christ.
Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Grace

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all. **Amen.**