

The Lord’s Supper / Holy Communion / Sacrament of the Altar

Matthew 26:26-28 [See also **Luke 22:17-20**, **Mark 14: 22-25**, **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**]

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took **bread**, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is **my body**.” ²⁷ And he took a **cup** (Passover **wine**), and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is **my blood** of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

What does scripture say is present when we receive the Lord’s Supper?

1. Bread
2. Body of Christ
3. Wine
4. Blood of Christ

Confessional Lutheran Position

We receive what scripture says we receive all four elements. We confess that the body and blood of Jesus are **in, with, and under** the bread and the wine. We call this the Real Presence.

Roman Catholic Church

Rome teaches that the body and blood of Jesus are the only thing that people receive as the bread and the wine are **completely changed** into the body and blood of Jesus. The bigger issue is not what they think they are receiving but rather the belief that the Lord’s Supper is a representation of the sacrifice of Jesus back to God. This was the big issue that the reformers had with Rome in its understanding of the Lord’s Supper.

Confessional Presbyterians/Anglicans

Who this group is can be hard to pin down but they believe that in the Lord’s Supper the individual who receives the bread and wine also **spiritually receives** the body and blood of Jesus in heaven.

Baptist/Pentecostals/Evangelicals

This group believes that when one receives the Lord’s Supper they only receive bread and wine and that it is only **Symbolism**. The act of communion is done to fulfill Christ’s command of “do this” and to intellectually remember what Jesus has done.

Why does it matter what we believe it is?

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 ²⁷ 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**. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.