

An Affirmation of Worship for Communion

Every person imbued with religion may know that, as there is natural nourishment for the body, so there is spiritual nourishment for the soul. And inasmuch as the body dies, but after death the soul goes on living, it follows that spiritual nourishment is that which provides for our eternal salvation.

Since our Lord taught that the bread and wine represented his body and blood, therefore both eating and drinking, when they take place at the Holy Supper, are distinctly of a spiritual nature. They symbolize our appropriating and making our own his divine love and truth, and in doing so we are made one with the Lord, in the measure of our desire to receive him, for he himself is present in them. It is also communion with all who constitute his church on earth and his kingdom in heaven, for the Lord lives in the hearts and minds of all who love him.

Thus the Holy Supper was instituted by the Lord to the end that the church may be conjoined with heaven and with himself.

Communion Prayer

Holy and merciful Lord, conscious of our need of you we come to your holy table, that you may feed us with the bread of life. We come, not trusting in our own goodness, but in your kindness and steadfast love. In obedience to your word we present ourselves before you, to keep in the way of your own appointment the blessed memorial of our redemption.

Sanctify, O Lord, with your divine presence, and bless with your heavenly grace, that which we are about to do; and, as of old you blessed the bread and the cup which you gave to your disciples, bless now the bread to be broken and the cup to be given in your name.

Grant that we may receive them in the spirit of love and faith toward you, and in peace with one another; that so we may be truly fed at your table with the spiritual food of your divine body and blood, and that the Holy Supper may be to us the sign and seal that we are your children, opening to us the mansions of heaven, and conjoining us with you for ever.

Amen.