

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

"A family of Christians growing in faith, reaching out in love."



The Online Practice of Communion: Practical Instructions

As Prince of Peace continues to worship online, *a new online communion practice will be incorporated into the service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, beginning July 12 at 9:40am.* This communion practice would include the following practices:

- **A Live Event:** Online communion will be offered to those who gather for the live streaming event on Sunday morning. **Communion is therefore a LIVE event for the gathered community, and it is not to be practiced as a recorded event.**
- **Bread and Wine:** Prince of Peace members will be encouraged to have bread and wine (or grape juice) prepared and ready for the Communion liturgy. Bread and wine should be available and placed near the computer, tablet or smartphone as the communion liturgy begins. Members might light a candle on their tables to set more of a spiritual atmosphere for the liturgy. An open Bible might also be present in order to read the Words of Institution (1 Corinthians 11: 23-26). Children could be involved too. Setting the table, helping to bake the bread. (You can follow the recipe given.) Or worshippers may use bread that is store bought. It may be either leavened or unleavened. Also, just as one may use grape juice for medical or personal reasons, the same is true for using gluten-free bread or crackers.
- **The Liturgy/The Pastor will preside over the Meal:** During the communion liturgy, when the bread and wine are consecrated, the presiding pastor will make reference to the fact that he/she is blessing their elements at home. This isn't magic. The Word of God has the power here in obedience to Christ's command within the assembled community. After the words are said by the presiding pastor, you are invited to repeat the words aloud yourself. If you are alone, you will give yourself bread and wine, following the pastor's instructions. If two people are together, commune each other speaking the words of Christ. In families, you can pass around the elements giving each other communion or choose one person to be the designated server.
- **The Words of Christ:** We will speak the gospel to each other using the words of Christ. They should be spoken out loud, even if you are alone in your home. Parents should practice speaking the words with their children (those who are old enough to commune):
 - This is the body of Christ, broken for you.
 - This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.



- **Follow the Pastor's Instructions:** The pastor will give clear instructions when people should eat and drink together. And what words should be spoken at which time. The instructions will be clear, so don't worry.

- **A Blessing for Younger Children:** Parents should speak a blessing over younger children who are not communing. Place your hands on their heads as you speak the blessing. Both parents can do this together. Such as: *"You are a beloved child of God."* or *"May you always know Jesus loves you."* *"For you and all, Jesus died and rose again and watches over us."*

- **Final Blessing and Prayer:** The liturgy will conclude with a prayer and blessing: The online liturgy will end with a prayer and a final blessing, much like the traditional liturgical flow to corporate worship.

-**What about leftovers?** Any bread or wine/grape juice that is left over may be consumed. Even though it has been consecrated for this meal, it is not any more holy than ordinary bread, wine or grape juice. It is to remind us that all food is holy and is a gift from God. Wine may be consumed or poured out on the ground as a sign of God's gift poured out for all on the earth. Bread may also be placed outside to benefit God's creatures or used in one's daily meals as a reminder of God's gift of our daily bread.

-**One last favor!** Since this is a community event of the entire assembled congregation, we would love to see and hear your stories of celebrating this meal. Send your pictures or videos on how you set the Lord's Table in your home. What it looked like as you were celebrating. Also, send us your comments about your experience with this meal.

Some questions to get you started:

How did you feel while celebrating this?

How did God surprise you?

How did this deepen, change, or enhance your practice of communion?



A Bread Recipe from Luther Seminary

Yield: 4-8oz. Loaves: *Each loaf serves approximately 40 people, which is a lot, so feel free to modify recipe accordingly or make the entire recipe and share this bread as a gift with your family or neighbors, along with a little note that says something like, “**Jesus is the Bread of Life, Here is a gift of bread that was made for your daily life! Enjoy!**”*

Sift dry ingredients 3 times

2 c. whole wheat flour
1 c. white flour
1 ¼ tsp. Baking powder
1 ¼ tsp. Salt

Put in 4 tsp. Oil

Mix water and sweeteners together; add to dry ingredients and mix well.

¾ cup + 2 Tbsp. Very hot water
3 Tbsp honey
3 Tbsp Molasses

Dough should be a bit sticky.

Divide and roll ¼” thick circle

Mark with a cross; Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes

Remove and brush with oil, bake an additional 5-8 minutes, remove and cool.

*Note: This assumes a **bread machine** is used to mix the dough. – If mixing by hand, mix well.*