

Virtual Communion During A Pandemic

Why celebrate the Lord's Supper online?

The session has the responsibility of seeing that the sacrament of Communion (or The Lord's Supper) is celebrated at least quarterly. "The principles of the Directory for Worship include guidance on the theology underlying the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The Directory for Worship assumes that the Lord's Supper will be administered in person in a gathered assembly, after which it may be taken beyond the initial worship service to those who are home-bound or shut in, as an extension of that worship service, by two persons in ordered ministry." (These are the offices of deacon and ruling elder.)

The Sacraments are both physical signs and spiritual gifts, including words and actions, surrounded by prayer, in the context of the Church's common worship. They employ ordinary things-the basic elements of water, bread, and wine-in proclaiming the extraordinary love of God.

Because of efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, worship in person is suspended until safety measures can be appropriately developed and adequately administered. In the meantime, online worship continues, and we will include virtual Communion once a month for the benefit of those worshipping with us from their homes.

How do I prepare?

To prepare for the Lord's Supper, first you need elements. They can be as spectacular or ordinary as you like: Bake your grandmother's favorite bread recipe or grab a box of crackers. Open a bottle of wine you've been saving or turn on the faucet. The elements themselves are not what make communion special – it is God's grace and activity as we remember together.

After the elements have been selected, you might think about what cup and plate to use. You may choose something unique, filled with history and memory or your everyday place settings. Jesus used what was available to him at the time, and God made sure it was enough. It's what God does: makes the ordinary, holy.

Though we will be physically distant, we will be united at one table. Whether you prepare the dining room with candles or use a well-loved TV tray. When we commune together, we are reminded of the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us. Christ himself is present with us. The important thing about this meal is not the elements themselves, but God's physical grace that is offered to us at the table.