

The Church: The Lord's Supper

1. The Lord's supper proclaims Christ's death in the past

a) the fulfilment of the Passover

"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22:14, cf. Exodus 12:1-28)

b) the institution of the New Covenant

"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." (Luke 22:20, cf. Exodus 24:8-11)

2. The Lord's Supper enables us to enjoy communion in the present

a) Communion with Christ

Transubstantiation: (Roman Catholicism) Elements become Christ's body and blood and are re-presented to God

Consubstantiation: (Luther) Christ is present in, with, and under the elements

Memorialism: (Zwingli) The elements are symbols to help believers remember Christ

Spiritual Communion: (Calvin) Whilst receiving the symbols believers feed on Christ spiritually by faith

**We do not feed on Christ physically...
but we do feed on Christ spiritually by faith**

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 10:16 cf. John 6:53)

b) Communion with one another

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread...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 judgement on himself. (1 Corinthians 10:17, 11:28-29)

3. The Lord's Supper anticipates Christ's banquet in the future

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (Luke 22:17-18, cf. 22:28-30)