

their partnership to the gospel had to be *literal* and *actual* because Paul added: "...all of you share in God's grace with me." (v. 7)

- d. St. Paul wrote: "I pray that you may be active in *sharing* your faith..." (NIV Philemon 1:6) Not just in thinking about it, but in *actually* telling others the good news of Jesus Christ!
- e. Furthermore, those who eat the **bread** and drink the **wine** *in an unworthy manner* are "guilty of sinning against the **body** and **blood** of the Lord." (NIV 1 Corinthians 11:27) *Therefore, the **body** and the **blood** must actually be present!*

All five examples noted above help us to better understand the meaning of the Greek word "*κοινωνία*" and the literal – *though mysterious* – connection that actually exists between **bread** and **body**, **wine** and **blood**!

## The GREAT Assurance



1. In *reality* we have sinned, and *deserve the worst!* Nevertheless, our gracious heavenly Father wants us to know that

we *actually* and *literally* have His forgiveness in Christ!

2. So what is our assurance? *Our reception of Jesus' **very body** and **very blood!** The **same body He gave** and the **same blood He shed** on the cross!*
3. How is that possible? *By God's **almighty power!** Jesus said: "Take, eat; this is **My body**... this cup is the new testament in **My blood**... which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*<sup>1</sup>

**Conclusion:** As we receive the **bread** and **wine**, we also receive the *very **body** and very **blood***. Furthermore, *knowing we are sinners and having God's gift of faith*, we know we are *fully forgiven in Christ!*

## Find Out More

See all three Lord's Supper brochures; contact Pastor with your questions, concerns!

## Connect and Benefit

**Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)  
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<sup>1</sup> The Words of Institution are based on the sum of these references – Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

# The Lord's Supper

- The *Four Elements*
- The *Real Connection*
- The *Great Assurance*



## Introduction

Most of us have been confirmed; therefore, we *should* have studied what we receive in the Lord's Supper and why. However:

- Maybe you never quite understood.
- Maybe you have forgotten.
- Maybe, *over time*, you have embraced logic *over* the clear teachings of God's Word, the Bible.

*Whatever your situation*, a careful review will help you:

- Better understand *what you are receiving!*
- Be more certain of *God's full forgiveness in Christ!*

## The **FOUR** Elements

Bread-  -Body  
Wine-  -Blood



1. They are all noted in this verse: “Is not **the cup** [the wine] **of thanksgiving** for which we give thanks a **participation** in **the blood of Christ**? And is not **the bread** that we break a **participation** in **the body of Christ**?” (NIV 1 Corinthians 10:16) Paul Kretzmann made this comment: “We have here the essence of the Lord’s Supper in one [verse]: there are the earthly, visible elements, **bread** and **wine**; there are the invisible blessings, the real presence of the **body** and **blood** of Christ...”<sup>2</sup>
2. This demonstration will help you remember the four elements:
  - a. I have four boards, each containing one word (**bread**, **body**, **wine**, **blood**) and one small hole. The four boards represent the four elements we receive.
  - b. Our Altar Guild prepares for the Lord’s Supper by placing unleavened bread (*in the form of individual wafers*) and wine on our

<sup>2</sup> Paul E. Kretzmann, *Popular Commentary of the Bible, The New Testament* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1923), 2:136.

altar. Then, *by the power of God*, through the words of institution:

- i. The **body** (of Christ) is joined or *locked* to the **bread**, while the **blood** (of Christ) is joined or *locked* to the **wine**.
- ii. The **bread** did **not** become the **body** of Christ, **nor** did the **wine** become the **blood** of Christ. Instead, the **body** was *sacramentally* or *mysteriously* united to the **bread**, while the **blood** was *sacramentally* or *mysteriously* united to the **wine**. But how do we know about such a connection?  
*Let’s go on to the next section!*

## The **REAL** Connection

Is the connection:

- ➔ **Symbolical** or
- ➔ **Spiritual** or
- ➔ **Actual**



1. Some say the connection is symbolical: The **bread** symbolizes the **body of Christ**, while the **wine** symbolizes the **blood of Christ**.
2. Others say the connection is spiritual: As we receive the **bread** and **wine** on earth, we spiritually commune with the **body** and **blood** of Christ in heaven.

3. Still others say an actual change occurs: The **bread** becomes the **body of Christ**, while the **wine** becomes the **blood of Christ**.
4. **But what does the Bible say?** Going back to 1 Corinthians 10:16: The wine is “a **participation** in **the blood of Christ**,” while “**the bread** [is] a **participation** in **the body of Christ**.” The key word is “**participation**,” which comes from the Greek word “**κοινωνία**.” That same word can also be translated: “**fellowship**” (Acts 2:42 NIV), “**communion**” (2 Corinthians 13:13 NRS), “**partnership**” (Philippians 1:5 NIV), and “**sharing**” (Philemon 1:6 NIV). Notice how the following uses of “**κοινωνία**” point to a *literal / actual* connection between two things:
  - a. The New Testament believers “devoted themselves to...the **fellowship**...” (NIV Acts 2:42) *They were literally together with each other!*
  - b. Christians are *actually* in “**communion** [with] the Holy Spirit...” (NRS 2 Corinthians 13:13) The Bible says: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is [*literally*] in you...” (NIV 1 Corinthians 6:19)
  - c. St. Paul wrote to the Philippians: “I always pray with joy because of your **partnership** in the gospel...” (NIV Philippians 1:4-5) Their connection,