Holy Communion in the Home or Hospital

After Holy Communion in the church, deacons or others often visit those not able to attend worship, in order to serve them the Lord's Supper in the home, hospital or other place. This page offers suggestions for this ministry.

We suggest that your church purchase one or more Communion service kits, readily available from church supply houses for about \$25.00 up. The Communion kit includes a plastic bottle for juice, a container for the bread, and plastic cups.

Fill the Communion kit with the elements from those used at the Sunday worship service, if possible, as soon as the service is over. Take your Bible with you.

When visiting to serve Holy Communion, spend a few moments with the person first to see how he or she is getting on, and ask about any special concerns. Involve any family members or friends who may be present.

Pray with them briefly about their concerns, and about the needs of the entire church family. Read any special Scripture passage the Lord gives you for the person(s) you are visiting.

Read the Scripture, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, from your Bible or from this sheet:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Follow with the Lord's Prayer, said by all.

When serving the bread, you may say, "The body of Christ, the bread of heaven." When serving the cup, you may say, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." Or use other appropriate words.

Conclude with a brief prayer of thanksgiving. You can use this one:

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the gifts we have received, the cup of salvation and the bread of life. Let the sense of your living presence fill us with joy as we serve you. Amen.

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