



WCF Prayer:

Chapter 29 - Of the Lord's Supper

Gracious Lord and Heavenly Father,

It is difficult for us to comprehend how one of your closest disciples could betray you. Lord Jesus, this is heart-breaking and alarming to us. Guard our faith, we pray, that we might never deny or betray you.

Knowing what was to come, you planned that very night to leave your disciples the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper—a sacrament of your body and blood. In your perfect wisdom, you called your Church to observe this Supper together until the end of the world. You did this so that we might continually remember the sacrifice of our Saviour on the cross.

Living God, we marvel that as we share these elements of bread and wine, we are sealed with all the benefits of our union with Jesus, your Son. We praise you that this holy meal brings us spiritual nourishment, strengthening us to obey you and fulfil the duties to which we are called. What an amazing bond and pledge of communion we share with you and with one another as members of your body, the Church.

Heavenly Father, we recognize that as we receive this Sacrament, our Saviour is not offered up to you again. We know there is no new sacrifice made here for the sins of the living or the dead. Help us remain clear-minded: this act is a commemoration of that one, final offering of Jesus on the cross. We rest secure in the knowledge that his sacrifice was a unique, "once-for-all" act.

As we share this Sacrament, please receive our participation as an offering of a spiritual act of worship and praise in response to your grace. Forgive us if we ever seek to turn the Sacrament into a sacrifice as though Christ's finished work at Calvary was insufficient. We praise you Lord God that only at Calvary is your wrath turned away for the sins of your elect.

We thank you for the ministers you have appointed to declare the Word of Institution. We recognize that through prayer and blessing, these elements are set apart from common use for this holy purpose. What a privilege it is for minister and congregation to receive them together in corporate worship. We recognise Lord God that these should never be administered as a private event.

It is you alone we worship—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Protect us from the sin of venerating the bread and wine themselves. We know they remain truly bread and wine, and that they possess no spiritual power beyond what you have ordained. Yet, we are humbled by the mystery that you gift such a close relationship between these elements and your sacrifice that they are called your "body and blood."

Lord, as we apply both Scripture and reason, we know the substance of the bread and wine does not change. Guard us against any superstition or false teaching that might become a snare or an act of idolatry.

We delight that as we receive these elements physically, we simultaneously receive them by faith—inwardly and spiritually. In this way, we feed upon our crucified Saviour. Though we only understand in part, we know that just as the bread and wine are real to our senses, so the benefits of your death are spiritually present to our souls.

Finally, we acknowledge the seriousness of this table. We know this Sacrament brings blessing only to those who trust in you. We recognize with sadness that those who eat without faith receive only bread and wine, missing the spiritual grace signified by the elements. Help us to guard this table, ensuring that the ignorant and ungodly do not participate to their own grief.

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of the Lord's Supper. We receive these elements obediently and in faith, acknowledging the deep mystery and incredible significance of this gift for the building up of your Church.

Amen.