

How Do Disciples Take Communion?

Here's Just a Glimpse at Six Congregations

Note: Congregations typically include a hymn at some point in the communion process which is not included in the descriptions below

Communion Before the Message:

Bethany Christian Church, Evansville: Minister offers an Invitation and then the Words of Institution after the two Elders come forward. One Elder prays for the bread and then tray holding both Bread and Cup are passed. Congregation partakes of bread as it is passed and holds cup. When all are served, the second Elder prays for the Cup. The Minister then leads the congregation in partaking the Cup together.

Broadway Christian Church, Princeton: Minister offers the Invitation and Words of Institution. Bread trays are distributed. One Elder serving at the Table offers a prayer for the Bread, then all partake together. Cup trays are distributed. Same Elder offers a prayer for the Cup, then all partake together. Two Elders serve during Lent and Advent.

Poseyville Christian Church: Minister offers the Invitation then one Elder prays. Bread and Cup are passed in separate trays and held until all are served. The Minister then offers the Words of Institution for the Bread and all partake. Then the Minister offers the Words of Institution for the Cup and all partake.

Communion After the Message:

East Side Christian Church, Evansville: Minister offers an Invitation then one Elder prays. The trays hold both Bread and Cup. Each person takes the Bread as it is passed then holds the Cup. After all have been served, the minister leads them as they partake of the Cup together.

First Christian Church, Oaktown: Minister offers the Invitation then one Elder prays. Bread and Cup are passed in separate trays and held until all are served. The Elder breaks the bread and offers the Words of Institution for the Bread and all partake. Then the Minister offers the Words of Institution for the Cup and all partake.

First Christian Church, Vincennes: The Words of Institution are offered by the Pastor or presiding Elder. Two Elders, at the table take turns offering prayers for the Bread and Cup. Four deacons then serve the congregation. The trays hold the Cups with the Bread in the center. Each person takes a Cup and piece of Bread and hold them. After all have been served, the minister directs the partaking, one element at a time.

Other Related Information:

Bethany, Oaktown and East Side will generally break a symbolic loaf and lift a chalice as part of their communion process.

Variations:

At Vincennes, the Maundy Thursday Service has seen communion served by placing 12 chairs near the table and serving 12 at a time who come forward to take the seats. Each group is served from the table as Bread and Cup are offered to each individual followed by a prayer of challenge to rise and go forth in the name of Jesus.

Other congregations often invite congregants to come forward to break Bread and dip it into a common Cup for Maundy Thursday.

About once a month, Broadway Christian Church moves communion to the end of Worship and invites congregants to come forward to the table where they partake of the same Bread and Cup used on other Sundays. On Maundy Thursday, the Lord's Table joins a Candle Table and a Handwashing Table as one of three prayer stations visited in the midst of the service.