

# DEEPER CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRY, THE NETHERLANDS

## ORDER OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

**NOTE:** The minister should follow the procedure outlined below for completeness, brevity and consistency. The duration depends on the size of congregation; 15-20 minutes should be enough for an average congregation.

### GENERAL

The table shall be set in advance with the unleavened bread and the juice of the fruit of the vine properly divided in small (disposable) cups. Servers should be appointed beforehand.

After a short prayer, the minister shall read the following (text in *italics*):

*The ordinance of the Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper was established by Jesus Christ for all Christian believers. We celebrate it, as often as we do it, to show forth the Lord's death till He comes. This should be a time of reflection, prayer and rededication. We should celebrate it with all gravity and in a very prayerful disposition. We implore everyone to honour this period and remain in a prayerful mood.*

### SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

### THE EXHORTATION

The minister shall read the following:

*From the text, we see the precept, purpose and preparation.*

1. **Precept** (verses 23-25): *This ordinance proceeded from the Lord. He instituted it and it replaces its Old Testament type. The emblems are unleavened bread and the juice of the fruit of the vine.*
2. **Purpose** (verses 24-26): *The purpose is threefold: to remember Calvary (His death), to renew our commitment (His Lordship) and to refocus on His coming (His return).*
3. **Preparation** (verses 27-32): *Every believer is encouraged to partake of this feast. It should be a joyful thing. However, personal examination is required before we go to the Lord's Table. We should ensure we have a right relationship with God, and then we can proceed to partake of the feast. It is an opportunity to renew your life and love for the Master.*

### THE CEREMONY

1. The minister shall beckon on the servers to bring the unleavened bread. When they are set, he will bless it by reading the following text:

***"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."*** Father, we thank You for this bread, which symbolises the body of Jesus Christ Your Son that was broken for our sins on the Cross. As we eat it, may we partake of His risen life and fullness, and be counted worthy to share of His resurrected body at His return in glory. Amen.

2. While the congregation remains in a prayerful mood, the servers will go round to serve the bread to those who signify by raising their hand, beginning with the minister. People will refrain from eating; they will wait till everyone has been served and the minister bids everyone to eat. When they are done, the juice of the fruit of the vine will be brought forward. The minister shall bless it by reading the following text:

***"And He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And He said unto them, This is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many."*** Father, we thank you for this wine, which symbolises the blood of Your Son Jesus Christ, shed for our sins on the Cross of Calvary. As we drink it, may our commitment to You be renewed, and may the preserving power in the shed blood of Jesus keep us blameless till we see Him in glory. Amen.

3. The servers will pass the juice to the people, beginning with the minister. People will refrain from drinking; they will wait till everyone has been served and the minister bids everyone to drink.
4. To conclude, the minister will ask the congregation to rededicate themselves to the Lord while he leaves the pulpit, the people still praying.
5. It is recommended to sing a hymn thereafter just like our Lord did with His disciples.