

TRINITY KLEIN



COMMUNION
AT HOME



DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME LUKE 22:19

Online worship is a different experience in your home when compared to being in the sanctuary. Online worship delivers preaching of the word, the opportunity for confession, and receiving words of absolution. After searching the scriptures, the confessions, prayer, and discussion your pastors and elders are confident that in communing virtually we are still together as the body of Christ when we join in Communion with those who are home. This is not a practice unique to Trinity Klein. Out of an abundance of concern for God's people, who should not be left bereft of this sacred gift, some pastors in our Synod have begun inviting their congregants to partake of the Lord's Supper in their homes – a practice that was supported by Martin Luther himself. This practice is also rooted in the antecedent to the Lord's Supper, the Passover, which, from its inception, was celebrated in homes. (Exodus 12:1, 3, 6-7, 13) We celebrate the Lord's Supper so that God's people may receive with joy all that this meal promises and delivers, heeding Christ's clear command: Do this in remembrance of Me. (Luke 22:19) For these reasons, after thoughtful contemplation and prayerful consideration, we humbly, confidently, and faithfully obey Christ's command to celebrate His Supper.

COMMUNION ELEMENTS

Set apart a special space to celebrate the Lords Supper. Remember all elements used in setting up your altar are reminding you of this special space set apart for a holy purpose.

Setting the altar

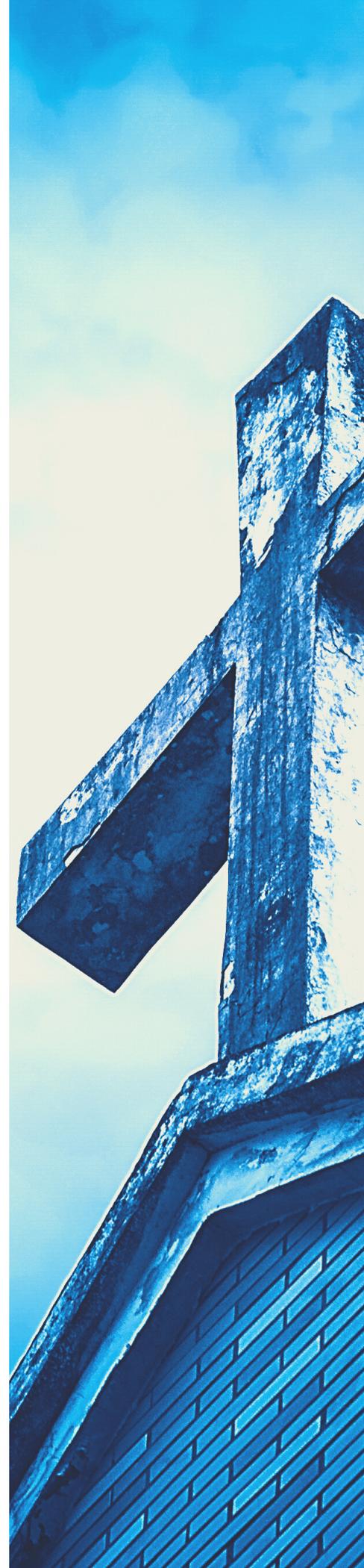
Identify an altarThis can be any clear table top. We suggest locating one close to a TV or computer so that you can participate in the service. You may keep the alter top clear or add a table close to identify it as a special place.

Plate Select a nice plate to lay the communion bread on. This needs to be a plate the is not a plastic or ordinary plate
Cup

Select a cup to hold the wine. This can be a wine glass or other special glass. Again refrain from using a plastic or everyday cup.

Candle and CrossConsider lighting a candle as we do in church and placing a cross on the altar. The cross is a reminder of what Christ has done for you.

Prepackaged elements are available to be ordered at Concordiasupply.com (search TrueVine Chalice Prefilled Communion cups). Make sure to select Wine over Juice.



WHY OFFER COMMUNION AT HOME?

First, we believe that it is appropriate to celebrate the Lord's Supper, even while faithful participants may be in different physical locations, because the gifts offered in Christ's body and blood are not based on our locations, but in wherever Christ has promised to be present. (Matthew 18:20, 28:20)

Second, we believe that it is appropriate for both pastor and people to speak the Words of Institution in the celebration of Communion because the words and gifts of Christ are given to the whole Church. Christ's words and work are to be the whole Church's proclamation. (1 Corinthians 11:26) In the Divine Service celebrated online at Trinity Klein and among our Synodical congregations, a rightly called minister of the Gospel presided over the Sacrament, inviting his congregants to speak the Words of Institution with him – not instead of him. If a person has not been properly prepared to receive Christ's body and blood through repentance, discernment, and faith, or if they have been reluctant to receive the Sacrament in their home, they are invited to receive a blessing instead. Likewise, our Synod's Brief Statement agrees, along with Paul and Luther, that the Lord's Supper is given to the whole Church: Since the Christians are the Church, it is self-evident that they alone originally possess the spiritual gifts and rights which Christ has gained for, and given to, His Church. Thus St. Paul reminds all believers: "All things are yours," 1 Cor. 3:21, 22, and Christ Himself commits to all believers the keys of the kingdom of heaven, Matt. 16:13-19, 18:17-20; John 20:22, 23, and commissions all believers to preach the Gospel and to administer the Sacraments, Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25. (Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, par. 30)

Third, we believe that the promise and certainty of the Lord's Supper is not found in the mere recitation of a certain set of words. Nor is it found in the physical space in which a set of words is spoken. The promise and certainty of the Lord's Supper is found in Christ and Christ's Word alone. (Isaiah 55:10-11) At the same time, these words must never become a mystical mechanism by which we attempt to conjure Christ. He is present in His Supper because of His promise and power, given to us through His Word, and not because of our actions. A more extensive explanation of the theology and understanding behind home communion can be found at digital.trinityklein.org