

Procedures for Conducting Lord's Supper Services

1. General

The annual Lord's Supper service is the paramount ordinance practiced by the Church of God 7th Day. Much effort and preparation are needed to conduct this service.

The declarations "Statement of Things Most Commonly Believed Among Us" (Statement) says the following about the Lord's Supper and Foot Washing service:

"b. The Lord's Supper, which commemorates the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Till He comes," and is a memorial that should be observed yearly at the beginning of the 14th of Nisan (Abib) with unleavened bread and "fruit of the vine," which represent the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is also a loving symbol of Christian fellowship, and a pledge of renewed allegiance to our risen Lord and Savior.

c. The observance of the act of humility, the washing of the saint's feet, should be held in connection with the Lord's Supper. Jesus said, "If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet" (Acts 2:28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; John 13:4-17).

As the statement also describes, "*The Churches of God (7th Day) cherish liberty of thought*" It is recognized that there are differing practices among the brethren relating to the timing and conduct of the Lord's Supper and foot washing. For example, some do not include the foot washing service as part of the service. Others conduct the service at the beginning of the 15th of Nisan (Abib). Some conduct the footwashing service first and some last. While it is recognized that honest and sincere brethren hold different points of view on these subjects, in the interest of encouraging unity, the following is the prescribed practice for the Churches of God (7th Day) as it relates to the Lord's Supper Services.

2. Date and Time

The service is to be conducted at the beginning of the 14th day of Abib/Nisan. The date of the service is determined from the Jewish calendar. Typical service start time will be soon after sunset, which corresponds to the beginning of the Jewish day.

3. Preparing before the Service

There are a number of preparatory steps that need to be taken in order to ensure a well-conducted and edifying service. These include:

- A. Preparation of the hearts
- B. Preparation of the facilities
- C. General preparation for the service
- D. Preparation for foot washing ceremony
- E. Preparation for communion

- A. Preparation of the Hearts – Although not mandatory, typically we remind the congregation through sermon, teaching or exhortation about the significance of the Lord’s Supper and the need for us as believers to not take of the emblems unworthily. This is usually done some time during the month and weeks preceding the service. Also, the opportunity may be given for the brethren to further consecrate themselves by having a week of prayer or nightly prayer service the week preceding the service.
- B. Preparation of the temple for Passover was taken care of by the Levites. In the same way, the Lord’s Supper service involves preparation of the facilities, including cleaning the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.
- C. General preparation for the service includes the following:
- Announcing of date and time of the service regularly in advance of the service by various means.
 - Planning for the service. In addition to prayer, develop the order of the service, plan for music, Scriptures to be used, the service officiants, development of bulletins for the service, etc.
 - Ensuring that musicians are available and determine the selection and placement of music, choir, or special renditions
 - Purchase or baking of unleavened bread and grape juice.
7. Preparation for the foot washing ceremony includes the following:
- Setting up the church building for the ceremony.
 - Securing, sanitizing and setting up basins for foot washing.
 - Securing and setting up towels.
 - Procedures for collecting towels and basins, and cleaning and storage after the service.
8. Preparation for the communion ceremony includes the following:
- Setting up of communion table, which includes:
 - Positioning the communion table in the Sanctuary.
 - Retrieving and ensuring the bread plates are clean.
 - Preparation of the unleavened bread – breaking sufficient bread for the expected participants.
 - Retrieving and ensuring the juice dispenser is clean.
 - Retrieving and ensuring the cup trays are clean.
 - Ensuring an adequate number of cups is in stock.
 - Ensuring sufficient fruit of the vine is poured.
 - Positioning of bread plates and fruit of the vine dispenser on the communion table.
 - Retrieving communion tablecloths.
 - Retrieving washbasin, towels and positioning of pedestal.

Conducting the Service

9. When preparing the order of service, the following should be kept in mind.
- The service should start on time.
 - Official start may be preceded by prelude music.

- The order of the service should include a Scripture reading and congregational singing.
- The placement of special renditions, exhortations, testimonies, etc. is flexible.
- Although the ordained elders and ministers are typically called upon first to participate in the various sections of the services, e.g., Scripture reading, and exhortation from the Word, serving the bread, serving the fruit of the vine, any brother or sister may be called upon to assist.

After the Service

11. Post service clean up includes:
 - Washing, drying and storing of the foot washing basins and towels.
 - Washing, drying and storing of the dispensers, cup trays, washbowl, bread plates and tablecloths.
 - Clearing and mopping the Fellowship Hall.
 - Repositioning the communion table.

Other Considerations

12. Receiving Lord's Supper at Residence. Depending on time constraints and availability of the ministry team, individuals who are shut in may receive Lord's Supper the same night at their residence. A portable communion is available to service 2-4 people. Of course, the service would be much shorter and adapted to suit the environment.

13. "Make-Up Service." According to Scripture, individuals who missed the Passover on the 1st month of the year were allowed to participate in a "make-up" ceremony on the 14th day of the 2nd month. Accordingly, we allow for the make-up Lord's Supper at the beginning of the 14th day of the 2nd month. The date would also be determined based on the Hebrew calendar. There would be a central service at the church (most likely in the Chapel), complete with foot washing and communion, with the possibility of additional services in various locations to accommodate the shut-in congregants, whether in nursing homes or private residence.