THE QUESTION

What did the early church expect of a person before taking Communion?

Asked by a THF member on September 26, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 25 early Christian passages and 125 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-church-expect-of-a-person-before-taking-communion

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

They did not ask for a spoken life story, but they did expect a real confession of faith. Only baptized believers who lived as Christ taught could receive. Each person was to examine himself, and taking Communion itself proclaimed Christ's death and confessed his resurrection.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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IN THIS STUDY

1	Only the baptized may receive the Eucharist	**2**
2	Faith, baptism and a Christlike life were required	**2**
3	Each person must examine himself first	**2**
4	Communion itself is a public confession	**3**
5	Believers came humbly, asking grace to be worthy	**4**
6	Grave sin kept a person from Communion	**4**
7	Those unknowingly taking part were taught	**5**
	What these passages don't tell us	**5**
	The Sources: 25 early Christian passages and 125 Bible verses, with links	**6**

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POINT 1 OF 7

Only the baptized may receive the Eucharist

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache gives the Eucharist prayers and then sets a firm limit: only those baptized into the Lord's name may eat or drink. It backs this with Jesus' warning not to give what is holy to dogs.

1 “But let no one eat or drink of your Thanksgiving, or Eucharist, except those who have been baptized into the name of the Lord.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 9 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Faith, baptism and a Christlike life were required

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin names three things a person needed before receiving: believing the church's teaching is true, being baptized for the forgiveness of sins, and living as Christ instructed. Taking Communion was itself a sign of that faith and life.

2 “This food is called among us [the Eucharist], and only those who believe that our teachings are true, have been washed with the washing for the remission of sins and renewal, and live as Christ instructed, are allowed to partake.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Each person must examine himself first

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says each person's conscience is the best guide, resting on a right life and sound teaching, and he quotes Paul's command to examine oneself. Origen warns that someone who ignores that command and receives carelessly becomes weak or sick.

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3 "A person's own conscience is the best guide for choosing rightly or for avoiding something. And its firm foundation is a right life, together with proper instruction."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 1.1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

4 "But if anyone, when he ought to listen to the command, "But let each man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread," and so on, 1 Corinthians 11:28, does not obey these words, but carelessly takes part in the bread of the Lord and His cup, he becomes weak or sick, or even, if I may use the expression, because he is stupefied by the power of the bread, asleep."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 10 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 12, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Communion itself is a public confession

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The early liturgies expand Paul's words: eating the bread and drinking the cup shows the Lord's death and confesses his resurrection. In this sense every believer who receives is giving testimony to Christ before the church.

5 "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show the Lord's death and confess His resurrection, until He comes."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 11, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 "O Sovereign and Almighty Lord, King of heaven, as we show the death of Your only begotten Son, our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, and acknowledge His blessed resurrection from the dead on the third day, we also openly declare His ascension into heaven and His sitting at Your right hand, O God and Father, and we await His second terrible and dreadful coming."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 10, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 5 OF 7

Believers came humbly, asking grace to be worthy

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The prayer before Communion in the Liturgy of St. James is a personal confession of sin. The worshiper admits he is not worthy and asks God, in mercy, to make him worthy by grace to receive without condemnation.

7 “O Lord our God, heavenly bread, the life of the world, I have sinned against Heaven and before You, and I am not worthy to partake of Your pure mysteries. But as a merciful God, make me worthy by Your grace to partake of Your holy body and precious blood without condemnation, for the remission of sins and everlasting life.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 8, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Grave sin kept a person from Communion

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian says believers receive the Eucharist daily, but grave sin could keep someone back from it. He also describes repentance, confession after an examination of the person's life, and the laying on of hands before such a person returned.

8 “And we ask that this bread should be given to us daily, so that we who are in Christ, and who receive the Eucharist daily as the food of salvation, may not, because of the interruption caused by some grave sin, be prevented—being kept back and not communicating—from sharing in the heavenly bread, and so be separated from Christ’s body, as He Himself foretells and warns: “I am the bread of life which came down from heaven. If any man eats of my bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›

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9 “For in lesser sins, which are not committed against God, repentance may be completed in a set period of time, and confession may be made after an examination of the life of the one doing repentance.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English
Source 18, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 7 OF 7

Those unknowingly taking part were taught

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions repeat that only the baptized may receive. Yet if someone takes part out of ignorance, the church is told to teach and initiate him quickly, so that he does not leave and despise the church.

10 “Let no one eat of these things unless he is initiated, but only those who have been baptized into the death of the Lord.”

later in the same passage

“But if anyone partakes through ignorance, instruct him quickly and initiate him, so that he may not go out and despise you.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English
Source 22, page 7 Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages never describe a spoken personal testimony as a required step before Communion.
- They do not say how a church should test a person's faith beyond baptism, self-examination and repentance.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 25 early Christian passages and 125 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–25, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 26–127, in Bible order), then 23 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *25 passages from 11 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 9 **Quote 1, page 2** about the Thanksgiving, or Eucharist, give thanks in this way. First, about the cup: "We thank You, our Father, for the holy vine of David Your Servant, which You made… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* (on point 2) abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not acknowledge the Eucharist to be the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, who suffered for our sins, and whom… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 4) "when the president has given thanks, and all the people have expressed their assent, those who are called by us deacons give to each of those present to partake of… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *First Apology* **Quote 2, page 2** "food is called among us [the Eucharist], and only those who believe that our teachings are true, have been washed with the washing for the remission of sins and renewal… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 5–6*

5 *Stromata* 1.1 **Quote 3, page 3** "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Stromata* 1.10 (1885 English) "breaking the bread, He presented it, that we might eat it, according to reason, and that knowing the Scriptures we might walk obediently… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 7*

7 *Against Marcion* 13 "is offered to the worthy, denied to the unworthy, taken… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · sources 8–11*

8 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** "as a merciful God, make me worthy by Your grace, without condemnation to partake of Your holy body and precious blood, for the remission of sins, and life everlasting… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) "I present to You this supplication and thanksgiving, that Your Spirit the Comforter may be sent down upon me, strengthening and fitting me for this service… [continues online] **read ›**

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10 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** "do in remembrance of me; for as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do show forth my death and acknowledge my resurrection and ascension until… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "do in remembrance of me; for as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show forth the Lord's death, and confess His resurrection, till… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 12–13*

12 *Commentary on Matthew* 10 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "if any one, when he ought to listen to the precept, But let each prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, etc., 1 Corinthians 11:28 does… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Celsus* 57 "we have a symbol of gratitude to God in the bread… [continues online] **read ›**

Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · source 14*

14 *Epistles and Epistolary Fragments* "had stood at the holy table and had stretched forth his hands to receive the blessed food, and had received it, and for a very long time had been a… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 15–19*

15 *Treatises* **Quote 8, page 4** "forever, it is clear that those who partake of His body and receive the Eucharist by the right of communion are living. So, on the other hand, we must fear… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 1) "what a crime is theirs on the one hand who receive, or on the other, theirs who are received, that their foulness not being washed away by the layer of… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Epistles* (on point 6) "their time is fulfilled, while persecution is still raging, while the peace of the Church itself is not yet restored, they are admitted to communion, and their name is presented… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Epistles* **Quote 9, page 5** for the bishop the honor of his priesthood and his dignity, have already begun to be in communion with the lapsed, to offer on their behalf, and to give them… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 4) "Corinthians 11:23-26 But if it is both enjoined by the Lord, and the same thing is confirmed and delivered by His apostle, that as often as we drink… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 20–23*

20 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 3) "must beforehand purify his heart from all wickedness of disposition, from all spot and wrinkle, and then partake of the holy things… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) "and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is the mystery of the new covenant. Take of it, and eat. This is my body, which is broken for many, for… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 10, page 5** Always be thankful, as faithful and honest servants. And concerning the Eucharistic thanksgiving, say this: "We thank You, our Father, for the life that You have made known to us… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) "Now we have received the precious body and the precious blood of Christ, let us give thanks to Him who has thought us worthy to partake of these His holy… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · sources 24–25*

24 *Canonical Epistle* (1885 English; on point 6) "we shall cause others also, who may have lapsed, and wish to return to what is right, to be negligent and remiss in this respect, having as a pretext, that… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Canonical Epistle* (on point 6) strengthen them in the orthodox faith, and to share fellowship with them both in prayers and in partaking of the sacraments. He also says they should be encouraged with comforting… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *102 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

26 **Genesis 24:33** He set bread before them to eat, but he said, "I will certainly not eat until I have told my errand." He said, "Speak." **read ›**

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27 **Genesis 43:31** Then he washed his face, came out, controlled himself, and said, “Serve the bread.” **read ›**

28 **Exodus 16:16** “This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is the word that the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one for those who belong to him, an omer for every head, according to the number of persons among you; each of you gather it together with those who share your tent.’” **read ›**

29 **Exodus 30:16** You shall take the money of the contribution from the children of Israel and give it for the service of the tabernacle of witness. It shall be a memorial for the children of Israel before the Lord, to make atonement for your souls.” **read ›**

30 **Leviticus 6:19** Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, (Septuagint Leviticus 6:12 (Leviticus 6:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

31 **Leviticus 7:13** With loaves of bread made with yeast he shall offer his gifts, with the peace offering of praise. **read ›**

32 **Leviticus 10:13** You shall eat it in a holy place, for this, from the burnt offerings of the Lord, is an ordinance for you and an ordinance for your sons; for so I have been commanded. **read ›**

33 **Leviticus 13:6** The priest shall look at him on the seventh day, the second time; and behold, if the plague is dim and the plague has not spread in the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean, for it is a mark; and when he has washed his garments, he shall be clean. **read ›**

34 **Leviticus 13:8** The priest shall look at him, and behold, if the mark has spread in the skin, the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is leprosy. **read ›**

35 **Leviticus 13:15** The priest shall look at the healthy flesh, and the healthy flesh shall prove him unclean, for it is unclean; it is leprosy. **read ›**

36 **Leviticus 13:20** The priest shall look, and behold, if its appearance is lower than the skin, and its hair has turned white, the priest shall pronounce him unclean, because it is leprosy; it has broken out in the ulcer. **read ›**

37 **Leviticus 13:39** the priest shall look, and behold, if there are shining spots in the skin of the flesh, shining and whitish, it is a white rash breaking out in the skin of the flesh; he is clean. **read ›**

38 **Leviticus 19:8** Whoever eats it shall bear sin, because he has profaned the holy things of the Lord; and the persons who eat it shall be utterly destroyed from their people. **read ›**

39 **Leviticus 21:22** He may eat the gifts of God, the most holy things, and of the holy things; **read ›**

40 **Leviticus 22:6** the person who touches any of these shall be unclean until evening. He shall not eat of the holy things unless he washes his body with water; **read ›**

41 **Leviticus 22:7** and when the sun goes down, he shall be clean, and then he shall eat of the holy things, for it is his bread. **read ›**

42 **Leviticus 22:16** and bring on themselves the lawlessness of trespass by eating their holy things; for I am the Lord who sanctifies them.’ ” **read ›**

43 **Leviticus 23:17** From your dwelling you shall bring loaves as an offering laid on, two loaves; they shall be of two tenths of fine flour, baked with yeast, as first produce to the Lord. **read ›**

44 **Numbers 5:15** then the man shall bring his wife to the priest, and he shall bring the gift for her, a tenth of an ephah of barley meal. He shall not pour oil on it or put frankincense on it, for it is a sacrifice of jealousy, a sacrifice of memorial, bringing sin to remembrance. **read ›**

45 **Numbers 6:20** and the priest shall offer them before the Lord as an offering laid on. It shall be holy for the priest, in addition to the breast of the offering laid on and the shoulder of the portion set apart. And after this the one who has vowed shall drink wine. **read ›**

46 **Numbers 15:19** then it shall be, when you eat of the bread of the land, you shall set apart a portion set apart, a special portion for the Lord, the firstfruits of your dough. **read ›**

47 **Numbers 18:31** And you may eat it in any place, you and your households, for this is your pay in return for your services in the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

48 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

49 **Deuteronomy 8:3** And he brought hardship on you and let you hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know, that he might make known to you that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God shall man live. **read ›**

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50 **Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness shall not stand to testify against a man for any unrighteousness, or for any offense, or for any sin that he commits. At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses every word shall stand. **read ›**

51 **Deuteronomy 26:3** And you shall come to the priest who shall be in those days, and say to him, “I declare today to the Lord my God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.” **read ›**

52 **Joshua 22:27** but that it may be a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us, that we may serve the service of the Lord before him with our burnt offerings, our sacrifices, and our peace offerings; and so that your children will not say to our children tomorrow, ‘You have no portion in the Lord.’ **read ›**

53 **Judges 13:4** Now therefore be careful: drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean. **read ›**

54 **Ruth 4:7** Now this was the ordinance in former times in Israel concerning redemption and concerning exchange, to confirm every matter: a man would take off his sandal and give it to his neighbor who was redeeming his right of redemption. And this was a testimony in Israel. **read ›**

55 **1 Samuel 30:12** and they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and he ate, and his spirit revived in him; for he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights. **read ›**

56 **2 Samuel 3:35** And all the people came to give David bread while it was still day; but David swore, saying, “May God do so to me, and more also: until the sun goes down I will by no means taste bread or anything at all.” **read ›**

57 **1 Kings 13:15** And he said to him, “Come with me and eat bread.” **read ›**

58 **2 Kings 25:29** He changed his prison garments, and he ate bread continually before him all the days of his life. **read ›**

59 **Job 33:20** He will by no means be able to take any food made of grain, though his soul will long for food, **read ›**

60 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

61 **Proverbs 20:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

62 **Ecclesiastes 7:29** Only, see, this I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many reasonings. Who knows the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a saying? **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 5:19** who say, “Let what he will do draw near quickly, so that we may see; and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come, so that we may know.” **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 7:6** “We will go up to Judea, and having talked with them we will turn them to our side, and we will make the son of Tabeel king of it,” **read ›**

65 **Ezekiel 6:6** and in all your dwelling place. The cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be made to vanish, so that your altars may be utterly destroyed, and your idols shall be broken in pieces, and your shrines removed. **read ›**

66 **Daniel 3:9** “O king, live forever! **read ›**

67 **Daniel 9:5** we have done wrong, we have acted lawlessly, and we have departed and turned aside from your commandments and from your judgments, **read ›**

68 **Daniel 12:9** And he said, “Come, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the end of a time. **read ›**

69 **Daniel 12:11** And from the time the continual offering is changed and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. **read ›**

70 **Hosea 4:5** And he shall be weak by day, and the prophet with you shall be weak; I have compared your mother to night. **read ›**

71 **Nahum 1:2** God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; the Lord avenges with wrath; the Lord avenges himself on his adversaries, and he removes his enemies. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Sirach 9:16** Let righteous men be your table companions, and let your boasting be in the fear of the Lord. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:27** Better is one who works in all things than one who walks about, or one who glorifies himself and lacks bread. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:3** She will feed him with the bread of understanding, and give him the water of wisdom to drink. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:2** The Lord alone will be justified. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:20** Before judgment, examine yourself, and in the hour of visitation you will find atonement. **read ›**

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77 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:21** Before you fall sick, humble yourself, and in the time of sins, show your turning back. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:23** Before you pray, prepare yourself, and do not be like a man who tests the Lord. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:17** To a sexually immoral man all bread is sweet; he will certainly not stop until he dies. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:20** A crooked heart will give sorrow, but a man of much experience will repay him. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:25 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 38:10** Put away trespass, and direct your hands rightly, and cleanse your heart from all sin. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:15** he stretched out his hand to the cup and poured a drink offering of the blood of the grape; he poured it out at the foundations of the altar, a pleasing aroma to the Most High, the King of all. **read ›**

87 **Baruch 1:17** because we have sinned before the Lord, **read ›**

88 **1 Maccabees 2:56** Caleb, for bearing witness in the assembly, received an inheritance in the land. **read ›**

89 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

90 **2 Maccabees 7:29** Do not fear this executioner, but prove worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in mercy I may receive you back again with your brothers." **read ›**

91 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Then those who before had been held in disgrace and near to Hades, or rather had already set foot in it, instead of a bitter and lamentable death held a drinking feast of salvation; and, full of joy, they divided the place prepared for their fall and their tomb into couches for feasting. **read ›**

92 **4 Maccabees 5:19** So do not think it a small sin if we eat defiled food. **read ›**

93 **4 Maccabees 7:6** O priest worthy of the priesthood, you did not defile your sacred teeth, nor did you let your stomach, which had made room for reverence for God and purity, share in defiled eating. **read ›**

94 **4 Maccabees 12:17** "I do not desert the testimony of my brothers. **read ›**

95 **1 Enoch 37:5** Now three Parables were imparted to me, and I lifted up my voice and recounted them to those who dwell on the earth. **read ›**

96 **1 Enoch 89:77** And he took the actual book and laid it down beside him and departed. **read ›**

97 **Matthew 1:7** Solomon became the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam became the father of Abijah. Abijah became the father of Asa. **read ›**

98 **Matthew 4:3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." **read ›**

99 **Matthew 26:26** As they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks for it, and broke it. He gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." **read ›**

100 **Mark 2:12** He rose immediately, took up the mat, and went out in front of them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" **read ›**

101 **Luke 4:3** The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." **read ›**

102 **Luke 22:19** He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **read ›**

103 **John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, **read ›**

104 **John 6:31** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat." **read ›**

105 **John 6:35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. **read ›**

106 **John 6:50** This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. **read ›**

107 **John 6:51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever. And the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." **read ›**

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108 **John 6:58** This is the bread that came down from heaven. It is not as when your fathers ate the manna and died. He who eats this bread shall live forever." **read ›**

109 **Acts 1:16** "Brothers, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **read ›**

110 **Acts 7:15** Jacob went down to Egypt, and he died, as did our fathers; **read ›**

111 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

112 **1 Corinthians 10:16** The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? **read ›**

113 **1 Corinthians 11:20** Therefore, when you come together in one place, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. **read ›**

114 **1 Corinthians 11:21** For when you eat, each one takes his own supper first, and one is hungry while another is drunk. **read ›**

115 **1 Corinthians 11:23** For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, **read ›**

116 **1 Corinthians 11:24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "Take, eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **read ›**

117 **1 Corinthians 11:25** In the same way he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in remembrance of me." **read ›**

118 **1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **read ›**

119 **1 Corinthians 11:27** Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks the Lord's cup in a way unworthy of the Lord will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. **read ›**

120 **1 Corinthians 11:28** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **read ›**

121 **1 Corinthians 11:29** For the one who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgment on himself, not discerning the Lord's body. **read ›**

122 **1 Corinthians 11:31** For if we discerned ourselves, we would not be judged. **read ›**

123 **1 Corinthians 11:33** Therefore, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. **read ›**

124 **1 Corinthians 11:34** But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you do not come together for judgment. I will put the rest in order when I come. **read ›**

125 **2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Or do you not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you fail the test? **read ›**

126 **Ephesians 4:9** Now what does "He went up" mean, except that he also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? **read ›**

127 **Ephesians 4:17** This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *23 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 2:24

Psalms 23:1

Isaiah 40:11 · 55:1

Ezekiel 34:13

Matthew 1:20 · 7:6 · 7:13 · 12:37 · 14:15 · 22:37 · 26:29 · 28:19

Mark 14:22 · 14:25

Luke 1:48

John 15:1

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Acts 8:30
Romans 13:2
Galatians 5:6
1 Thessalonians 2:5
1 Timothy 2:2
1 Peter 2:9

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early church expect of a person before taking Communion?” on September 26, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY