

# Experience His Passion



## A Lord's Supper Celebration Worship Service

*Adapt this worship service as appropriate for your style. The service invites worshippers to use all five senses to experience the Passion of Jesus Christ.*

### Call to Worship

### Welcome of Guests

### Fellowship Chorus

### Message:

The Father swallowed. He looked at the Prince of Light. "The darkness will be great," He said. He passed His hand over the spotless face of His Son. He went on, "The pain will be awful." Then He paused and looked at His darkened dominion. When He looked up, His eyes were moist. Then he declared, "But there's no other way."

The Son looked into the stars as He heard the answer: "Then, let it be done."

Slowly the words that would kill the Son began to come from the lips of the Father: "Hour of death, moment of sacrifice, it is your moment. Rehearsed a million times on false altars with false lambs; the decisive moment has come.

"Oh, My Son, My Child. Look up into the heavens and see My face before I turn it. Hear My voice before I silence it. Would that I could save You and them. But they don't see, and they don't hear. The living must die so that the dying can live. The time has come to kill the Lamb."

God must have wept as He performed His task. Every lie, every lure, every act done in the shadows was in that cup. Slowly, hideously, the Son absorbed them into His body. This was the final act of the incarnation. Today we pause, reflect, and remember the only begotten Son.

### Sense of Smell

**(Incense bearers enter from several doors around the sanctuary)**

The burning of incense played an important role in Old Testament times. It was so significant that God gave strict instructions to Moses about the ingredients used on the altar for burning incense. The Lord was quite specific about when it is burned and by whom. We find in several places in the Bible that the primary purpose for burning incense was to make atonement for the sins of God's people.

In Numbers 16, we read that the Lord became angry with the children of Israel and sent a plague to kill them: **Read: Numbers 16: 46-49**

In the New Testament, we find where incense was one of the gifts given to Christ by the wise men, who came to worship Him. However, the most significant reference to incense as it relates to Christians today is Ephesians 5:2: **Read Ephesians 5:2**

This verse reminds us that just as the incense was offered up in the Old Testament for the atonement of sin, so, too, Christ offered up Himself as a “fragrant offering” on our behalf. Today, through the burning and smelling of this incense we pause, reflect, and remember that Christ is the atonement for our sins.

## Chorus

### Sense of Sight

(Enter “Man of Sorrows Banner”)

We remember the suffering and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus by looking at the rough, coarse designs found in this banner. It is the “Man of Sorrows” banner, and it was deliberately created in a rough texture. The first thing you notice on the banner is the crown of thorns, which reminds us of the earthly crown we gave Jesus. We gave Him this crown, not to honor Him but to mock Him. Today, as we look at this banner, we pause, reflect, and remember the tremendous sacrifice Christ made for us.

**Alternate: If you are not able to make a banner, you may want to display pictures from *The Passion of the Christ* movie or other crucifixion images.**

## Chorus

### Sense of Hearing

The young mother sat quietly in the house and listened to the tap, tap, tap of her Son’s hammer against the nail and the wood as He worked in the shop (**Have someone backstage strike the hammer against metal**).

She listened as her husband patiently taught her Son the skills that one day would allow the boy to assume the family business of being a carpenter.

She listened as each crisp, metallic stroke brought the boy closer and closer to becoming the man He would one day need to be. She listened as the boy received instructions from His father on how to drive the nail straight and true so that the structure they were building would remain strong. She listened as the hammering finally stopped. Then she listened as her little boy shouted with glee, “Look, father, it is finished.”

Thirty years later she listened, and she heard the tap, tap, tap of the hammer against the nail, (**have someone backstage strike the hammer against metal**), and as she listened she heard Him say once again, “It is finished.” Today as we listen we pause, reflect, and remember the sorrow of a mother and the generosity of a Savior.

## Passing of the Bread

### Chorus

### Sense of Touch

Look at the bread you are holding in your hands. You notice immediately that this is not the typical bread that we are accustomed to eating. This bread isn't soft like the bread we like to eat. This bread feels hard. The texture isn't supple and pliable. It's stiff and dry. This hardly fits the idea that we all have in our minds of what bread should be. This, however, isn't ordinary bread. This bread is special, and it serves to remind us of something significant. This bread represents the body; not just any body, but the body of Christ. In Luke 22:19, Jesus compared this bread to His body, which was offered for us. Today, as we hold in our hands this hard, dry bread, we pause, reflect, and remember His body, which was broken on our behalf (**eat the bread**).

## Passing of the Cup

### Chorus

### Sense of Taste

We have remembered Christ through the sense of smell, the sense of sight, the sense of hearing, and the sense of touch. We come now to remember Christ through the sense of taste by receiving the cup, which reminds us of the blood He shed at Calvary. While the juice in this cup may be sweet to our taste, we need to remember the bitter circumstances of its offering. The significance of this cup means that someone died. The shedding of blood means that a life was taken.

That life was the most precious life this planet has ever seen. It was the life of our Lord, and the contents of this cup represent His life blood, poured out for us. The juice in this cup is sweet to our taste, but as we drink it today, we pause, reflect, and remember the bitter price paid by our Savior for our redemption (**drink the cup**).

### Chorus

### Benediction

Adapted from an article by Dennis Johnsey using Max Lucado's book, *The Cross* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1998). This worship service originally appeared in *Let's Worship Magazine*. Used by permission.