

## Prayers from the Didache

### BREAD

As many of you know, I have fallen in love with Christian history. Specifically, I have fallen in love with early Christianity, that is, the first 250 years after the apostles. I even made a YouTube channel about it.

The most ancient writing from these Christians comes from the first century. It is called the Didache, which means The Teaching. In fact, this was written while the apostle John was still alive. In it, it talks about the Lord's Supper and gives instructions on how to pray. They prayed three prayers: one before the bread, one before the fruit of the vine, and one after everyone had eaten. As we partake of the Lord's Supper this morning, I would like to lead us in these first-century prayers. Let us thank God for the bread, which is the body of Jesus.

"We thank You, our Father, for the life and knowledge which You made known to us through Jesus Your Servant. To You be the glory forever. Even as this broken *bread* was scattered over the hills, and was gathered together and became one, so let Your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Your kingdom. For Yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever."

### FRUIT of the VINE

Let's continue these first-century prayers as we thank God for the fruit of the vine, which is the blood of Jesus Christ; He is our true Vine.

"We thank You, our Father, for the holy Vine of David Your servant, Whom You made known to us through Jesus Your Servant. To You be the glory forever."

### **[After fruit of the vine is served...]**

"We thank You, holy Father, for Your holy name which You caused to tabernacle in our hearts, and for the knowledge and faith and immortality, which You made known to us through Jesus Your Servant. To You be the glory forever. You, Master almighty, created all things for Your name's sake. You gave food and drink to men for enjoyment, that they might give thanks to You. But to us You freely gave spiritual food and drink and life eternal through Your Servant. Before all things we thank You that You are mighty. To You be the glory forever. Remember, Lord, Your Church, to deliver it from all evil and to make it perfect in Your love, and gather it from the four winds, sanctified for Your kingdom which You have prepared for it. For Yours is the power and the glory forever. Let grace come, and let this world pass away. Hosanna to God, the (Son) of David! If anyone is holy, let him come. If anyone is not so, let him repent. Maranatha. Amen."