

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor: This is the table of the Lord and belongs to no individual, church or denomination and is open to all people who wish to come closer to God shown to us in Jesus the Christ.

Pastor: Come to this table, not because you must, but because you may; not because you are strong, but because you stand in need of God's love, mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body. Come to this table as you are.

All: We come to the table that is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to be renewed and strengthened in our common mission to share God's love.

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. **People: We lift them to God.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast love.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

We offer you our praise for people of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints and all the company of heaven, we glorify you: **All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

Words of Institution

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death and celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

Prayer of Consecration of Bread and Cup

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us: **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Sharing of the Bread

Come for all things are ready.

Join in singing "Let Us Break Bread Together" while the bread is passed (found on the inside back cover of the hymnals).

Eat this for it is the body of Christ broken for you.

Sharing of the Cup

Join in singing "Walls Mark Our Boundaries" while the cup is passed (found on the inside back cover of the hymnals).

Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

Our savior Jesus Christ keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

All: Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in the Sacrament and united us with Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

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