



Communion Liturgy

Written by Rev. Susan Arnold

WORDS OF ADORATION:

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love,
Holy and wonderful are you; your grace abounds,
and your purpose is steadfast and everlasting.

We thank you for the holy gifts of this table, a table where your mercies are abundant and new, and your faithful presence clearly visible and open to all who gather.

WORDS OF INVITATION:

This table continues to draw us into the place of prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, praise, supplication, and breakthrough.
Christ invites all to this table.

This table helps us to seek, to live in the power of the Trinity within us, between each other, and our many communities.

Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Return to the Lord, for he is gracious and merciful:
Merciful God, we humble ourselves in your presence today.
You have heard our earlier prayers of confession,
but maybe there are things we have not confessed with our whole hearts.
(We pause with our hearts open for you to reveal places that are full and
in need emptying through confession)
(pause for 1-2 minutes)

Together: we confess these to you Lord.

Forgive us, we pray through your great love and tender mercy,

Free us for joyful obedience

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Here the good news: as declared by the Lord, through the prophet Isaiah,
 “I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, and your sins like the morning mist,
 I have forgiven your sins and guided you into my loving presence. (Isaiah 44:22)

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

We are the Body of Christ,

In the One Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit

In the bond of peace

Turn to the person to your right, and say:

“the peace of Christ is always with you.”

Then, turn to the person on your left, and tell them,

“the peace of Christ is always with you.”

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

We Praise you gracious God,

Our creator and sustainer.

You created the Heavens and the Earth

And formed us in your own image.

Though we sinned against you

Your love for us was constant,

And you sent your Son Jesus Christ

To be the Savior of the world.

Abiding with you,

- Jesus prayed in a variety of settings, public and private.
- Jesus prayed in times of joy and sorrow.
- Jesus prayed for Himself, and He prayed for others.
- Jesus prayed to express thanks, to petition for needs,
 Jesus set the example of how we should
 seek fellowship and abide with you in prayer, Mighty God.
- As part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught the disciples how to pray.

- Jesus prayed blessings before feeding the 5,000, and at his Transfiguration.
- Jesus lifted prayers of intercession for those who belong to Him.
- Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest.
- Jesus even lifted prayers of forgiveness from the cross, in midst of his agony.
- Prayer was an integral part of Jesus' life, and He prayed regularly and continuously.

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

The pastor may raise hands.
Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.
When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread, or touch the bread, or lift the bread.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the cup, or touch the cup, or lift the cup.

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The pastor may raise hands.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread and cup.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine [the cup].
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

The pastor may raise hands.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us join our hearts in prayer as our brothers and sisters in Christ from [Uganda] share the Lord's Prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Uganda Video

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words being exchanged:

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Let us give thanks!

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION