

THE HOLY COMMUNION

This liturgy, slightly adapted from the Book of Common Prayer (Episcopal), has roots from the second century. It has been used for centuries throughout the world and is used today in some form by many parts of the Christian Church.

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to the glory of your Name:

Unison: 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.

Leader: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

People: He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Leader: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you; This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Unison: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Leader: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Unison: Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this Communion, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Leader: All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

Unison: Amen.

[Leader lifts, and/or lifts and breaks, the bread.]

Leader: Hallelujah. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Hallelujah.

[Servers hold the Bread as the Leader continues . . .]

Leader: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Take this and eat it in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

[Servers serve the Bread]

[Returning to the Table, the Servers hold the Wine
as the Leader continues . . .]

Leader: The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take this and drink it in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

[Servers serve the Wine]

[After Communion, or as a Benediction, the following]

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Communion of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

[or]

Unison: Almighty and everliving God,
We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory now and for ever.
Amen.