



A Service for Holy Communion

Opening Prayer

L: We come together to share Holy Communion:

In the name of God, who created us, who cares for us and the whole world.

In the name of the Son, who came into the world and reconciles us with God.

And in the name of the Holy Spirit, who fills us with eternal life, unites us with all Christians and calls us to a life of peace. Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness

L: Gracious God, we seek your mercy, yet we look for payback when we are wronged.

C: Gracious God, please, forgive us.

L: Gracious God, we think it's "only fair" and "what is right" when we retaliate and use harsh words and withdraw from relationships.

C: Gracious God, please, forgive us.

L: Gracious God, the forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend, still we withhold forgiveness and carry grudges over petty issues.

C: Gracious God, please, forgive us.

L: Gracious God, we are eager to make our judgements known in your name. And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance.

C: Gracious God, forgive us for the sins we know in our hearts and save us from the ones we hide.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

L: Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are completely forgiven.

And we are not only forgiven, we are also freed.

Therefore, let us freely forgive. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

L: Let us pray. Our tables of bread and wine are now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Jesus became fully human. So come to the table, all who have much faith and all who would like to have more; all who have been here often and all who have not been in a long time; all who have tried to follow Jesus, and all who have fallen short. Come. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

C: **Amen**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

L: Now let us pray the prayer our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us.

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

As you share the bread and wine/grape juice with one another, you may say:

L: The body of Christ, given for you.

L: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.