

Service of Holy Communion For The Candlelight Gathering

The Greeting

Minister: Grace to you and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen!

Minister: The Risen Christ is with us!

People: Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer: (Prayed by all)

Gracious God, as we begin this celebration of the Lord's Supper, we remember the many times that you shared meals with your friends. As we celebrate this meal together, may we once again, in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, remember Your love for us. We open ourselves to You, Lord. We want to experience anew Your presence in our lives. Touch us with Your transforming love and power that we might be made new in you. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ the Risen Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Adoration

The Confession and Pardon

Minister: Almighty God, many times your Son shared meals — with the twelve, the feeding of the five thousand, the supper at the home of Levi, the wedding at Cana, the Emmaus meal, the breakfast on the beach with His disciples. Some criticized Jesus for eating and drinking with sinners. As we come to this meal, we realize we are sinners, and we are asking Jesus to share with sinners once more. Yet we are sinners who are repentant, and we offer You this prayer before we eat this Bread and share this Cup.

Minister: Remembering then, His death and resurrection, we offer You this bread and cup, giving You thanks for judging us worthy to stand before You and serve You as disciples.

All: We take this bread and cup, committed to Christ coming alive in Us.

Minister: We ask you, O Holy Father: Send Your Holy Spirit on the offering of Your people. In gathering us together grant we, who share in these Your Holy Mysteries may so take part that we will be filled with the holy Spirit for the strengthening of our faith in the truth. As we declare The Mystery of the Faith, by the Holy Spirit's power, grant that this Bread and Wine will be for us the Body and Blood of Christ; that we may be strengthened to be Your servant people in the world where we live and work.

All: Christ Has Died! Christ is Risen! Christ will come Again! Dying, Christ destroyed our death; rising, Christ restored our life; coming, Christ will take us home to Glory!

Minister: Let us pray as Jesus taught His disciples.

All: Our Father in Heaven, holy be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in Heaven. Give us today the bread we need. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

The Communion

As Communion is being received, let the Congregation join in singing hymns and songs of the faith, joyously and with celebration.

Prayer After Communion (Prayed by all)

You have given Yourself to us, Christ.

Now we give ourselves for others.

Your love has made us a new people;

As people of love we will serve You with joy.

We have rejoiced in Your glory;

Help us to glorify You in all things. Amen

The Community's Prayer Concerns and the Prayers For the People

The Blessing and Benediction

Prayerful Awaiting for the Candidates

All: God of judgment, God of pardon: we confess that often we have refused to be a servant church. We have not done your will, we have disobeyed Your law. We have rebelled against Your love, we have not heard the cry of the needy, we have not loved our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister: When persons are united in Christ, they are new persons; a new world has already begun. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Hymn of Fellowship

Scripture and Meditation

The Invitation

Hymn of Dedication

The Affirmation *(Said by all)*

We believe in God:
Who has created and is creating
Who has come in authenticity in Jesus,
to reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.
We trust Him.
He calls us to be the Church the Body of Christ:
To celebrate God's presence,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our Judge and
our Hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for the Candidates — By Name

As the name of each Candidate is called by the Spiritual Director, the Congregation is asked to respond to each with the following: "Lord we pray for (repeat name of candidate). "

Following the calling of each name and the response, there will be a period of prayer for that candidate, silent or spoken. If spoken, please list a simple petition that all may join with their silent prayers.

Prayer for the Team -- By Name

The same procedure will, be used here as for the Candidates above.

The Peace

The Offering

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

All: We give you thanks, O God, through Your dear Child, Jesus Christ, whom You sent us in these last days to save us, redeem us, and inform us of Your Plan. He is your Word, inseparable from You, through whom You created all things and Whom, being well pleased with Him You sent from heaven's womb. He was conceived and took flesh and was manifested as Your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin. And He, accomplishing Your will and acquiring a holy people for You, stretched out His hands as He suffered to free from suffering and death those who trust you.

Minister: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took bread and gave You thanks, gracious Father God. He then 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."

When the supper was over, He took the cup, again He gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; for 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."

All: Jesus, we give you thanks for giving Your life for our salvation.