

Holy Communion at Home Order of Service

In the first gathering of Christians after Pentecost, the early believers met and broke bread together, thereby signifying their union and equality. These meals of the church family were associated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, which followed them. They were called agape, from the Greek word for love, that is for the highest type of spiritual love. Tonight's Communion service harkens back to those early days of the first followers of Christ, made possible now through modern means.

PRELUDE

~Wash your hands!

GATHERING

In John 8:12, Jesus says: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." **Amen**

~The candles are lit

We gather around our table in the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Because Jesus assures us in Matthew 18:20:

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Christ is present with us this day, always, and everywhere. Amen

MUSIC

~ All sing This Little Light of Mine verse 1

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

As we prepare for this great gift, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness.

Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

PRAYER

Let us pray. **Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:22-2:10

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For, "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵but the word of the Lord endures forever." That word is the good news that was announced to you.

^{2:1}Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the Word the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFTS OF GOD

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...the thanksgiving continues led by Pastor and concludes with:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

TABLE GRACE

Let us pray. The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord taught us:

~ *All say together* **The Lord's Prayer**

INSTRUCTION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time Pastor will take a moment to explain how the distribution of Holy Communion will take place in our homes. The explanation will conclude with the Invitation to Communion and then we will commune.

The elements of the Sacrament are offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *And* The blood of Christ, shed for you.

For children who do not commune, lay hand(s) on each child and offer this or another blessing:

"May the Holy Spirit dwell in you richly, with love, grace, and mercy."

INVITATION TO COMMUNION and DISTRIBUTION

Let us share now in the heavenly banquet that has no end.

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MUSIC

~ *All sing* **The Doxology**

BLESSING and SENDING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace and serve God and neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**