

The Holy Communion¹

Representatives of the congregation join the celebrant around the altar.

Celebrant: People of God, come near, for the Lord calls to us and yearns to love and nourish us.

People: **We hear God calling, and we open our hearts to hear and receive the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us tell the great story of how God has loved and saved the world.

People: **Let us bring God an offering and ask for the Lord's blessing. Amen.**

The celebrant continues:

Celebrant: Gracious Lord God, you are the source of all love and all life. Out of love you created all that is: every star and planet, the seas, the sky, and the earth, every plant and animal, and all the human race, giving to us a special place beside you in your Creation. You entrusted the world into our care and bestowed on us the great majesty of your divine likeness.

People: **Almighty Creator, we praise you and we bless you for all that we have and all that we are.**

Celebrant: In time, however, we sought our own way and wandered far from your love. Like lost children, captive to our own blindness and foolishness, we would not return to you. But you would not abandon us, and to show your great love for all Creation, you became human like us, living, loving, suffering, and dying alongside the people you had made.

People: **Merciful Lord, we thank you for coming to redeem us and bring us back into your love.**

Celebrant: In Jesus Christ, you were born into the world and walked among us. He lived as you would have us all live, loving you with all our heart and mind

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The author writes the following introductory statement: "I wrote this for the Liturgics class at the Diocese of Missouri's Episcopal School for Ministry. ... I intended that this work specifically reflect a more active participation among the people and a positive statement of faith by the communicants upon reception of the eucharistic species. It includes a double epiclesis and the salvation history is strongly incarnational in orientation. It omits a memorial acclamation and the Lord's Prayer, and uses some traditionally Protestant theology with respect to the anamnesis."

and strength and our neighbors as ourselves. He lived and died as a perfect example to all people of how we might live in accordance with your purpose for the whole world.

People: **Heavenly God, teach us to follow the path of your blessed Son, our Lord Christ.**

Celebrant: Before he died, Jesus shared a final meal with his friends. At the table that night, he took their common loaf of bread, thanked you for it, and broke it up, giving each person a piece. He said to them, “This is my body, and I give it to you. Remember that I am with you whenever you do this.” Likewise, he took their common cup of wine, thanked you for it, and passed it among them, giving each person a drink. He said, “This is my blood, and I give it to you. Remember that I am with you whenever you do this.”

People: **O Lord, as we do this now, we remember that your son Jesus Christ is among us and within us.**

Celebrant: Through his death, his return from the dead, and his reunion with you O God, Christ has forged the path that we too may follow – the path that makes all things right again, that restores love and heals all wounds, and that brings to completion the great purpose of your whole Creation.

People: **Lord God, through Christ within us, we are made one with you and with each other.**

Celebrant: And so, Lord God, we ask that you come and inhabit this place and the hearts of your people gathered here to praise and love you. Come and dwell within these gifts of bread and wine, so that when we share them, they will remind us of Christ’s presence within our very bodies. As we share these gifts that you have given us and we have returned to you, bind us one with another and all to you as the holy people you have always intended for us be. Grant that we, being filled with Christ’s presence and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, may make ready the world for the coming of your magnificent reign, and that in your perfect time we may at last dwell with you in boundless joy and surpassing peace.

People: **Lord God, let it be so!**

The celebrant breaks the bread into pieces and pours the wine from the flagon into the cup. Silence may be observed.

Celebrant: We are made one with God and one with each other because we are united in love as the people of one loaf and one cup.

The people respond loudly and solemnly:

People: **AMEN!**

The paten and chalice are immediately passed among the communicants, with each receiving the consecrated elements and then giving the elements to another. The ministers receive communion after all others have, with the celebrant being the last among them.

The Bread is administered by one communicant to another with the following exchange:

Giver: What is this?

Receiver: The Body of Christ, which he gave to us.

Giver: Amen.

The Cup is administered by one communicant to another with the following exchange:

Giver: What is this?

Receiver: The Blood of Christ, which he gave to us.

Giver: Amen.

When all communicants have received, the deacon clears the altar of the vessels and ceremonies. The celebrant addresses the people with the following words:

Celebrant: God of all, great Creator and Sustainer,
we your people thank you and bless you
for the mysterious gift of this sacred meal.
Through it you nourish and strengthen us
and rebuild the whole Creation,
bringing it ever closer to its perfection where all are one in you.
Grant us now your magnificent grace
to participate with all our heart and mind and strength
in your redemption of the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

An appropriate blessing follows.

The deacon or celebrant invites the people to return to the world with these words:

Come, let us go forth into the world.

People: We go in the name of Christ. [Alleluia.]

Additional Directions

It is appropriate that the highest quality bread and wine conveniently available be provided for the offering. It is especially appropriate that the bread be baked by members of the community for the express purpose of the Eucharistic offering.