

St. Clare's Episcopal Mission in Brevard, NC
Rite 5 - Occasional Fourth or Fifth Sunday of Each Month

The Holy Communion**

Presider: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Open your hearts.

All: We open them to God and one another.

P: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is right and a good and joyful thing to stand open in the presence of God and one another as grateful people, lifting our voices in chorus, with those who have gone before us, and with people throughout the world today, singing:

All: Holy, holy, holy

My heart adores you!

My heart knows how to sing to you!

Holy are you, O Spirit of Life!

Reader 1: Wise and gracious God, Creator of all good things, Redeemer of this broken world, you bless your people and the earth itself, Holy is your name.

All: You are the source of love in the world, the wellspring of justice in history, the resource of people on earth. Holy is your name.

Reader 2: We pray to you, God of our fathers and mothers; God of the judges, prophets, and priests of Israel; God of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant; God of Mary and Jesus; God of the church. Holy is your name.

All: Elohim, you are God. You lead your people out of bondage into freedom. Holy is your name.

Presider: Following Jesus, we call you *Abba*, for you love us. Guiding us, you are insistent, patient, encouraging, comforting. Holy is your name.

All: God our father, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. We thank you for giving us the bread we need. Holy is your name.

Reader 1: You hold us in your strong arms like a mother with her newborn infant. You have raised your children from generation to generation, planting seeds, harvesting grain, baking fresh bread, preparing meals, feeding your people, holding us up when we are weak, teaching us how to stand and walk, empowering us to go forth in the world as your daughters and sons. Holy is your name.

All: God our mother, you are the matrix of our power, our tenderness, and our courage. We forget too often that you are God. Holy is your name.

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Reader 2: We know that your names are as numerous and varied as your creatures, to whom you reveal yourself in different ways so that we may be your co-creative, imaginative lovers in a world abundant with redemptive images:

All: We see you in the sun and the moon, the rain and the wind, coming with power.

Presider: We see you in the liberation of humanity from injustice and oppression. We see you, coming with power.

All: We see you in our friends and lovers, our spouses, our children, our parents. We know your passion, your patience, your yearning. We experience you, coming with power.

Reader 1: We see you in the bodies of hungry people, broken people, tortured people, and a tortured earth. We tremble, and we believe that you are coming with power.

All: We believe in you, and we know you are with us, because we remember the power you revealed to us through Jesus, our brother.

Reader 2: We remember that on the night before he was executed by those who feared both him and you, he ate a Passover meal with his friends in celebration of your liberation of people from bondage.

All: Remembering your power, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my Body, and ours, to be shared. Whenever you eat it, remember me." After supper he took wine, blessed it, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this. This is my Blood, and ours, the source of our life. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Presider: Remembering Jesus and the power of your love revealed through him, we ask you, Source of all Life and Love, to bless this bread and wine, making them for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, your Body and ours. Bless us, that we may be for you Jesus Christ's Body in the world, people in love with you and your creation. All this we ask in your holy name, that with Christ and in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may live forever as your people, O gentle God of power and grace.

All: Amen!

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Wine is in the chalice; grape juice in the goblet.

People are invited to feed one another, either silently or with words of their choosing.

After Communion, people are asked to stand in a circle to give thanks

** This rite of Holy Communion is an adaptation of Carter Heyward's "Coming With Power" liturgy (1980), created by Heyward for use at St. Clare's. By agreement with the Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina, it is used by the Brevard Episcopal Mission on the fourth or fifth Sunday of each month.