

Sacrament of Communion



Invitation to the Table

The sacrament of communion that we celebrate is a work of God's Holy Spirit, who comes to us with His grace. Because of His offering of grace, we are fully able to remember and to know in our hearts the sacrifice made for us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We express our faith to God and we receive grace from God. Both are needed. Let us draw near to the Lord as we consider His redeeming sacrifice for us. Let us pray together...

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have often had worries about the future, even though we proclaim You as Lord. We have often failed to love our neighbors, and we have often disobeyed Your commands. Have mercy upon us, forgive us of our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness that we may walk in Your ways and serve You in grace and love. This we ask in Your holy name. Amen!

Our Lord Jesus Christ is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness; therefore, you are forgiven!

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good, proper, and joyful thing, at all times and in all places, to give You thanks, O Lord our God. You created us for Yourself, and even though we have fallen through our disobedience into sin and death, You in Your grace and

love sent Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, to live among us, to die our death upon the cross, and then to be raised again that we might have eternal life.

On the night in which Jesus was given over to suffering and death, He took bread, blessed it, gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

After the supper, He took the cup, blessed it, gave it to the disciples and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Father God, You are the giver of life, in whom we live and move and find our very being. Consecrate this bread and this cup for us to be the body and blood of Christ, and consecrate us, O Lord, to partake of this holy meal. All this we ask, Almighty God, in the name of Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You, in the presence of Your Holy Spirit, as one God, now and forevermore!

Amen!

Prayerfully, joyfully, reflectively, we gather at this table, where God invites us to share communion. This table belongs to God; not the church, not the people, but to the Lord. So God invites all those who seek to walk in His way to eat and to drink, to come and taste His eternal grace, to come to see that God is good!

Giving the Bread and Cup

At the direction of the ushers, you are invited to come forward to the altar where you may receive communion through intinction (a piece of bread will be handed to you that you may then dip into the chalice of juice). If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and someone will come to serve you...

A Prayer of Thanks *(after communion)*

The bread has been broken, the cup has been poured, and the meal has been shared!

Let us pray together...

Gracious God, we give thanks for bread for the journey, and for Your wisdom guiding us along the way. May we find brothers and sisters of Christ along our journey of faith, that they might encourage us and we'll` encourage them. May we find others who do not yet know You, and may we—through our

words and actions—invite them to come and to know You as well. This is our prayer. Amen!