

Holy Communion

Invitation

The invitation to come to this table,
comes not from the church,
but from Jesus Christ.

It has been made ready
for those who love him
and who want to love him more.

So, come,
if you have much faith
or if you have a little,
if you have been here often
or if you who have not been for a long time,
if you who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.

Come,
not because it is I who invite you:
but because it is our Lord.
It is his will that those who would like to know him
should meet him here.

Narrative

On the night on which Jesus was betrayed,
he sat at supper with his disciples.

While they were eating, he took a piece of bread,
said a blessing, broke it and gave it to them with the words
'This is my body. It is broken for you.
Do this to remember me.'

Later, he took a cup of wine, saying,
'This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood.
Drink from it, all of you, to remember me.'

So now, following Jesus' example and command,
we take this bread and this wine,
the ordinary things of the world through which we have
a foretaste of God's heavenly banquet.

As we Gather God's People, we share this meal which
unites us with Christ, with one another and with all
Jesus' follower's past and present. I would invite you to
share in the Nicene Creed, a statement of faith
Christians have used since the year 325...

Confession of Faith - The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Holy God, we praise you
let the heavens be joyful
and the earth be glad.

We bless you
for creating the whole world,
for your promises
to your people Israel,
and for the life we know
in Jesus Christ your son.
Born of Mary,
He shares our life.

Eating with sinners,
he welcomes us.

Leading his followers,
he guides us.

Dying on the cross,
he rescues us.

Risen from the dead,
he gives new life.

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place.

Joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn ...

Holy, holy, holy Lord...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

With this bread and this cup
we do as our Saviour commands:
we celebrate the redemption
he has won for us.

Let us pray,
Merciful God
in your incomparable love,
send your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine
and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let the same Spirit rest on us,
converting us from the patterns of this world until we
conform to the life of him whose food we share.

Breaking the Bread

Among friends,
gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread,
broke it and said,
'This is my body.
It's broken – for you.'

And later,
he took a cup of wine and said,
'This is the new relationship with God made possible
because I give my life for you.
Drink from this – all of you.'

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Sharing Communion

As you give the elements, say:
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, given for you.

Closing Prayer

Let us pray:

We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all people.

Amen.