

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

This liturgy is adapted from the Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book (1912) and Liturgy and Agenda (1918) which are in the public domain. Bold faced words can be spoken or sung as desired.



THE PREFACE

L: *(The congregation rises. Leader faces the congregation.)* The Lord be with you.

C: And with Your spirit.

L: lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

L: *(Leader faces the altar.)* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

L: It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty everlasting God: Who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. And in confessing the only true God, we worship the Trinity in persons and the unity in substance, equal in majesty. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory; Hosanna, Hosanna Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Blessed is He, Blessed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

THE EXHORTATION

L: (*Leader faces the congregation.*) Beloved in the Lord! Since we intend to come to the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, we should diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. For this Holy Sacrament was instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins and who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine ourselves, we find nothing in us except sin and death, from which we cannot set ourselves free. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ had mercy upon us and took upon Himself our human nature so that He might fulfill for us the entire will and law of God and, for us and for our deliverance, suffer death and everything that we deserved because of our sins. So that we may believe this more confidently and be strengthened through faith to live in joyful obedience to His holy will, He instituted the Holy Sacrament of His Supper, in which He feeds us with His Body and gives us His Blood to drink.

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks from this cup, firmly believing the words of Christ, remains in Christ, and Christ in him, and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, proclaiming His death: that He was delivered up for our sins and raised again for our justification. We should give Him our most heartfelt thanks for this, take up our cross and follow Him, and, according to His command, love one another as He has loved us. For we are one bread and one body, since we all partake of this one bread and drink from this one cup.

Further, as St. Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 10:17, receiving the Lord's Supper together is also a public confession of our unity in faith and doctrine. Therefore, if you have not publicly declared your agreement with the teachings of this congregation through membership here or in another congregation of the CLC, we kindly ask you to speak with the pastor or elder before coming forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: (*Leader takes the plate with the bread and faces the congregation.*) Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

L: *(Leader takes the cup and faces the congregation.)* In the same manner also He took the cup after supper; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you, for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

L: *(Leader faces the congregation.)* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI

C: O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

(The congregation may be seated. Communicate members may come before the altar as directed by the usher.)

L: *(When giving the bread.)* Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins. May this strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life eternal. Amen.

L: *(When giving the cup.)* Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord Jesus Christ shed for the remission of your sins. May this strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life eternal. Amen.

L: *(After each group has received both the bread and the cup.)* The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

PERSONAL PRAYER

(A prayer for personal use after receiving the Lord's Supper)

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, I heartily thank You that You have refreshed me with the body and blood of Your dear Son Jesus Christ. Strengthen my faith through this heavenly food, that I may bear my cross with Christian patience and trust; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

L: *(Leader faces the congregation and gestures for them to rise.)* We now continue with the singing of the Nunc Dimittis.

C: Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

L: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C: And His mercy endures forever.

L: *(Leader faces the altar.)* We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with this salutary gift; and we beseech You, of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.



(Continue in bulletin with final hymn.)