

HOLY COMMUNION
With Three Short Bible Readings:
Extracts from “The Message”: 1 Corinthians:
10:14-18; 11:23-26; 11:27-34

A song or hymn may be sung. The communion table is uncovered and prepared with bread, wine, and the offering of the church, according to local custom.

Minister The Lord be with you!

ALL AND ALSO WITH YOU!

Minister Lift up your hearts!

ALL WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD!

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**ALL IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS
AND PRAISE!**

1st Reading:

Leader Paul of Tarsus writes:

‘My very dear friends, when you see people reducing God to something they can use or control, get out of their company as fast as you can.

For when we drink the cup of blessing, aren't we taking into ourselves the blood, the very life of Christ? And isn't it the same with the loaf of bread we eat? Don't we take into ourselves the body, the very life of Christ? Because there is one loaf, our many-ness becomes one-ness: Christ doesn't become fragmented in us, rather, we become unified in him!’

So with saints and angels,
with heaven and all creation
we praise you
and give glory to you!

**ALL 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!**

2nd Reading:

Minister Paul continues:

*‘Let me go over with you again exactly what goes on
in the Lord’s Supper and why it is so centrally important.*

*The Master, Jesus, on the night of his betrayal,
took bread...
Having given thanks, he broke it...
and said,
“This is my body, broken for you.
Do this to remember me.”*

*After supper, he did the same with the cup:
“This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you.
Each time you drink from this, remember me.”*

*What we must solemnly realize is that every time
we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we
re-enact in our words and actions the death of the
Master.’*

God, Father-Beyond-All of Your Son-Among-All,
send your Holy Spirit that this broken bread and
poured out wine will: be for us the body and blood of
Christ; and make us into the body and blood of
Christ. In receiving his Nature and his Way into
ourselves make us one with him and with all creation
in a new heaven and new earth of your Reign!

ALL AMEN!

3rd Reading:

Leader Paul finishes:

*‘Anyone who eats the bread or drinks from the
cup of the Master irreverently is like part of the
crowd that jeered and spat on him at his death. Is
that the kind of remembrance we want to be part of?
Let us examine our motives, test our heart, and
come to this meal in holy awe.*

*Be reverent and courteous with one another.
It is a spiritual meal – a love feast!’*

And so, for the kingdom of God to come,
and the will of God to be done
on earth as in heaven,
we join our prayers and actions:

**ALL THROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHRIST,
 AND IN CHRIST,
 IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
 ALL HONOUR AND GLORY ARE YOURS,
 FATHER,
 NOW, AND FOR EVER! AMEN!**

*Bread and wine are given and received according to local
custom.*

Words like the following may be used during the distribution:

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Or :

The body of Christ broken for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

Minister Together, let us thank the Lord:

**ALL 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!
 AMEN!**

A song or hymn may be sung...

The bread and wine may remain uncovered, because:

Minister Christ's banquet/party/feast is not finished!
There are many courses!
And all are invited!
So, like beggars telling others
where to find fresh bread,
as we have received,
let us give
to everyone we meet
sharing with them
all that God has entrusted to us!

**ALL WE WILL LIVE BY GRACE!
WE WILL BE LIKE CHRIST!
AMEN!**

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