

A Liturgy for World Communion Sunday



The Invitation

Come, people of God, out of your separateness, to enter into unity with one another, and with all those who seek the presence of Jesus Christ, through the breaking of bread and the sharing of wine. Come, confessing the sin that separates you from God and from one another.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Eternal God of all people and places, we confess to you our lack of oneness with our human sisters and brothers as we begin this celebration of unity in Christ. We have closed our ears to voices of pain, and of wisdom, when they speak in accents other than our own.

PEOPLE: We have lacked the vision to see that people living in places we call foreign are as surely your children as we are. We cling to the pride of nation and denomination as if we had a special claim on truth and leadership.

Leader: Gracious God, forgive us, and renew a right spirit within us, a spirit of compassion, understanding, and humility.

PEOPLE: Fill us with the vision of unity in Christ, and enable us to incarnate Christ's love, so that we may worthily partake in the body of Christ and the wine of the new covenant. Amen.

Words of Assurance and Praise

Leader: The good news in Christ is that God is more willing to forgive our sins than we are to acknowledge them. The God of peace be with you all, keeping you in unity with Christ's people everywhere, with whom we give voice to this ancient song of praise:

Leader: We praise you, O God, for all earth worships you.

PEOPLE: Heaven and earth are full of your majesty and glory.

Leader: The glorious company of the apostles praise you; the goodly communion of the prophets praise you.

PEOPLE: Day by day we glorify you, and we worship your name forever, world without end. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for the mighty sweep of your love, embracing all people and all nations. We thank you that you have sent Jesus Christ to us to break down the walls of aggression which divide the earth's people, and to reveal your all-encompassing love, making us one. Through the power of your Spirit, may this unity become reality.

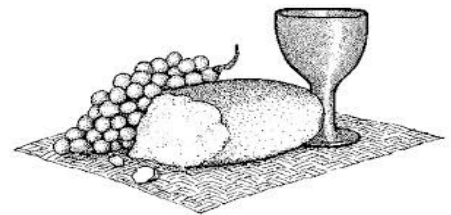
Now, by your presence, make sacred this feast in memory of Jesus Christ. As this broken bread was scattered like grain on the hillsides, and then, when gathered together, became one loaf, so may your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your eternal realm. On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Like Christ, who was offered up to you that we might live, and like this juice, which was poured out that all might share in the signs of new life, so may the lives of your people be poured out in compassion, and in solidarity with the poor, the oppressed, and the hungry of this world. When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As we partake of these elements, Almighty God, may we renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, Holy God, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.

Receiving the Elements



Prayer After Receiving

Leader: God of new life, with joy we have received this sacrament of bread and juice, giving you thanks for Jesus Christ, our peace and our hope.

PEOPLE: United your church throughout the world, we pray, in continuing Christ's ministry of love and servanthood, that you name may be praised in all the earth. Amen.