

The Sacrament of Holy Communion for the New Year

Leader: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. By your Word you have called forth creation, and you created us in your image. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth. You led us from slavery to freedom, going before us with cloud and fiery pillar. You gave utterance to the prophets, to demand that justice roll down like waters, and righteous life an ever-flowing stream.

And so, with all your people on earth and all the company of heaven who have gone before us, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SUNG RESPONSE: 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.

Leader: Holy are you, and holy is the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who taught us how to love and serve one another, and who poured out his life for the healing of the world. In the fullness of time, your Spirit descended upon him: to preach good news to the poor, to set at liberty those who were oppressed, and to declare the reign of God in our midst.

On that night before his death, Jesus took bread and gave thanks to you. He broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this bread, for it is the Bread of Life. It represents the covenant I make with those who love mercy, create justice, and build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Whenever you eat this bread, remember me.”

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is the cup of salvation. It represents my promise to be with you always. It has been poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this cup, remember me.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts of love and grace, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as children of your covenant, in union with Christ’s love for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

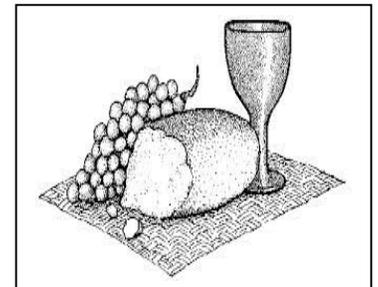
SUNG RESPONSE: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

***Leader:* Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may become one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, broken and poured out for the healing of the world, until all are raised from injustice, misery, and pain. Steadfast Creator, Trusting Servant, Spirit of Resurrection, we celebrate your grace and praise your holy and eternal name as we enter this new year full of hope and promise.**

SUNG RESPONSE: Amen.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into this new year in the strength of your Spirit. May we give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Savior. **AMEN.**



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Pastor: God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.

**PEOPLE: May we walk gently.
May we speak only after we have listened well.**

Pastor: Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.

**PEOPLE: May we regard the world with tenderness.
May we honor rather than destroy.**

Pastor: Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

**PEOPLE: May we welcome your lavish love and
amazing grace.**

***ALL: In this new year, may the grace
and peace of Christ bless us now and
in the days ahead. Amen.***



- Vinita Hampton Wright