

The Communion

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus and with all those who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. ***It is the table of communion with the earth in which Christ became incarnate.***

So, come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ himself who invites us to meet him here now.

Blessed are you, O God for you have brought forth bread from the earth. Blessed are you, O God, for you have created the fruit of the vine.

In the beginning you watered the earth that all might have food and drink. You gave to your servant Sarah bread to strengthen her family on their journey, and wine to make them glad. You called Moses and his people out of bondage and refreshed them with food in the wilderness. You gave Mary and Joseph their daily bread to share. And here at your table you offer us bread and wine for the journey to nourish us as sons and daughters.

And so, with all our sisters and brothers, before us and beside us, near and far. We join in the song of your unending greatness:

***Holy, holy holy, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Glory be to you, O God most high.***

Among friends, gathered round a table Jesus took bread, and, having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup of wine and gave you thanks. He gave it to them saying, drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

So, now, following Jesus' example, we take this bread and this wine; the ordinary things of the world through which God will bless us. And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us also celebrate God's goodness

Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room. Breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be heaven's food for us, renewing, sustaining and making us whole, that we may be your body on earth, loving and caring in the world. Look, the bread of heaven is broken for the life of the world.

In remembrance of Jesus life and death, we say these ancient words:

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Here is Christ, coming to us in bread and wine, ***the gifts of God for the people of God.***

Please wait until all have been served so we may eat and drink together as we give and receive bread and wine)

Communion Hymn: VU 471 Eat This Bread and Never Hunger

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other, Through Jesus Christ. Amen