

The Lord's Supper

This order is adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer*, the worship manual of the Episcopal Church. *Our group has an open communion, meaning that all followers of Jesus are encouraged to eat and drink the elements of the Eucharist. If you would normally take communion in your church, we hope you'll feel free to do so here. If not, please know that we're glad you're here, and we hope that nonetheless you'll benefit from witnessing our community enact this simple ceremony in fellowship with God and with each other.*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Reader 1: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Reader 2: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Reader 3: After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: {continued}

All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Leader: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice with praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Reader 1: Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Reader 2: Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Reader 3: All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Leader: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

{Here we distribute the elements and hold them.}

Leader: The Body and the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.

All: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. {Here we eat and drink.}

Leader: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.