

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

All

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Reader 1: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All: By your will they were created and have their being.

Reader 2: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Reader 3: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Reader 1: On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Reader 2: After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Reader 3: Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of

thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Leader: Lord God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread. Amen.

Leader: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

Leader: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All: We who are many are one body, for we share in the one bread.

{The elements are passed with these words:}
This is the Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. {Response:} Amen.
This is the Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. {Response:} Amen.

{All take, eat, and drink.}

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.