

An Order for Communion

November 2023

Welcome & candle lighting

Hymn : O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

Confession

God our Father, we have sinned against you and against one another, in thought, word and deed; we have not loved you with all our heart; we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. But you have kept faith with us. Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and restore us to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To all who turn to him he says: 'Your sins are forgiven.' He also says: 'Follow me.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Praise

Loving God, in the company of all your people we come to you, and your presence is joy to us. We come here on this first day of the week to meet with you and with each other and to listen for your word for each one. We are ready to break bread and to drink wine, to remember again the stories of our faith, and to be changed by being here with you. As we worship in the company of angels, surrounded by the saints, and embraced by your love, let us give ourselves openly and freely, as you give yourself to us, in tenderness and love. Loving God, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, we worship you, the one holy and eternal God. **Amen.**

Collect for Second Sunday before Advent

Reading: I Thessalonians 5. 1-11

Hymn: All that I am

Reading: Matthew 25. 14-30

Talk

We declare our faith in God

Sung: We believe in God the Father

Our prayers of Intercession, ending with the Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.

The Peace,

Jesus told his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not just me but the one who sent me.'

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

Hymn : Let us build a house

Dedication of collection

Lord God, we bring you the ordinary things of life -food and drink and money -and with them we bring ourselves. Take us, and our gifts of money, to do your work in the world. Take this food and drink from our tables and feed us from your table with your love. Accept the praise we offer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Celebration of Communion

Invitation

Jesus was often a guest. He shared many meals with his friends, and they long remembered his words at the table. Though some disapproved of the company he kept, Jesus ate and drank with all kinds of people and showed everyone the love of God. Wherever people met together Jesus was glad to be welcomed and to be fed. Today, we are the guests of Jesus. He welcomes us, whoever we are and whatever we bring, and he will feed us at his table. Old or young, rich or poor, joyful or in sorrow, Jesus invites us to share bread and wine with him, to remember the story of his life and death, and to celebrate his presence with us today. On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with twelve of his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. Mark's Gospel tells us what happened that night.

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body'. Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is

poured out for many. Truly, I tell you, I will never again drink the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

Our prayer of blessing, sharing and thanksgiving

God is with us!

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We give thanks and praise to God!

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Loving God, the world you made is beautiful and full of wonder. You made us, with all your creatures, and you love all that you have made. You gave us the words of your prophets, the stories of your people through the generations, and the gathered wisdom of many years. You gave us Jesus, your Son, to be born and to grow up in difficult times when there was little peace.

He embraced people with your love and told stories to change us all. He healed those in pain and brought to life those who had lost hope. He made friends with anyone who would listen and loved even his enemies. For these things, he suffered. For these things, he died. And he was raised from death and lives with you forever.

You give us your Holy Spirit, to teach and to strengthen us, to remind us of Jesus Christ, and to make us one in him. For all these gifts we thank you, and we join with all your people on earth and in heaven ,in joyful praise:

All: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

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Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

We praise you that we are here today, around the table of Jesus. We have heard the good news of your love; the cross is the sign of your arms stretched out in love for us and the empty tomb declares your love stronger than death.

Christ has died!

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine, and upon your people, that Christ may be with us, and we may be made ready to live for you and to do what you ask of us, today, and every day to come.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the love of the Creator, one God, to whom be glory and praise forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Blessing of the Cup

Eat this bread. It is the bread of life.

Drink this wine. It is the cup of blessing.

The distribution takes place. (Remember to invite those at home to share with us)

We share the bread and wine.

Hymn during Communion: Seek ye first

Thanksgiving Prayer

We say together

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things. May the ears that have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute. May the eyes that have seen your great love shine with the light of hope. May the tongues that have sung your praise also speak the truth. May the feet that have walked in your house ever walk in the light. May the bodies that have tasted your living body be restored to newness of life.

Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words.
Amen.

[Notices]

Hymn: One more step along the World I go.

Blessing,

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
And give you his peace.
My brothers and sisters, the Lord bless you.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: In the name of Christ. Amen