A Service for Today’s Church

THE LORD’S SUPPER OR THE HOLY COMMUNION (1)

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

##### Welcome

Hymn / Song

##### Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

The minister introduces the prayer of Confession.

All sit or kneel and, after a brief silence for reflection, join in a general confession.

**Heavenly Father,**

You have loved us with an everlasting love,

but we have gone our own way

and broken your laws.

We are sorry for our sins

and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us

forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.

By your Holy Spirit enable us to live for you

and to please you more and more,

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister, standing, says

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ promises to pardon and forgive all who truly repent and sincerely believe his holy gospel. May God grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, so that forgiven and cleansed from our sins, our lives may be holy, shielded by God’s power until Christ comes. Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

##### Bible Readings

##### Creed

We believe in one God,

 the Father, the almighty,

 maker of heaven and earth,

 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

 the only Son of God,

 eternally begotten of the Father,

 God from God, Light from Light,

 true God from true God,

 begotten, not made,

 of one Being with the Father;

 through him all things were made.

 For us and for our salvation

 he came down from heaven,

 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit

 and the Virgin Mary,

 and became truly human.

 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

 he suffered death and was buried.

 On the third day he rose again

 in accordance with the Scriptures;

 he ascended into heaven

 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

 He will come again in glory to judge

 the living and the dead,

 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

 who with the Father and the Son

 is worshipped and glorified,

 who has spoken through the prophets.

 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

 We look for the resurrection of the dead,

 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

##### Sermon

##### Collection

**THE PRAYERS**

##### Prayers

The Prayers conclude with the Lord’s Prayer, said by 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.

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

##### Introduction to Communion

*The minister gives an exhortation or reads from the Scriptures.*

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION**

##### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

He is worthy to be praised.

The minister says

Heavenly Father, we thank you because you gave your only Son to die on the cross for our redemption.

By his death he has offered the one perfect sacrifice,

 all that was needed to take away the sins of the world,

 and to reconcile you, his Father, to us.

By his rising to life, he has restored us to life eternal,

and has given us your promised Holy Spirit, the guarantee of our inheritance.

Therefore with your whole creation and with all your people since time began,

we honour and glorify you, with words of never ending praise, saying,

All say

 **Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,**

 **who was, and is, and is to come.**

*All say*

We dare not come to your table, merciful Lord,

 trusting in our own goodness, but in your grace alone.

We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your table.

 Gracious Father, grant that we who receive these gifts of bread and wine

 according to our Saviour’s word,

 may eat his body and drink his blood,

 that we may always live in him, and he in us. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The minister takes the bread and gives thanks.

Almighty God, we thank you for this bread, and for all you provide to sustain us. Above all, merciful Father, we thank you for Christ your Son, given for the life of the world. Amen.

Breaking the bread in the sight of all, the minister says

This bread we break is a participation in the body of Christ.

Thank you Father for making us one with Christ.

The minister takes the cup and gives thanks.

Almighty God, we thank you for this fruit of the vine, and for every good gift that gives us joy. We thank you above all for Christ our Lord, by whose blood you have bought us and bound us to be your people in an everlasting covenant. Amen.

Indicating the cup the minister says

This cup for which we give thanks is a participation in the blood of Christ.

Thank you Father for making us yours forever.

##### Communion

**GOING OUT TO SERVE**

##### Thanksgiving and Commitment

*The minister says*

We have shared at the table of the Lord

*All say*

Thank you, heavenly Father,

 for the assurance that we shall eat and drink with Christ

 when he comes in the glory of his kingdom.

The minister says

Remember, Father, your church bought by the blood of your Son,

 and gather it in holiness into the kingdom you have prepared for it.

Direct us by your Spirit in all our ways.
Stir us to live lives to your glory.
Make us faithful witnesses to Jesus and his resurrection,

 eager for the joy of his coming,
 and made worthy to worship you with all your saints for ever.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

A hymn or the ‘Hymn of Praise’ may be sung.

##### Blessing or Prayer of Dismissal

A Service for Today’s Church

THE LORD’S SUPPER OR THE HOLY COMMUNION (2)

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

##### 1. Welcome

##### 2. Hymn / Song

The minister and the congregation pray

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden;

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you, and glorify your holy name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### 3. Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we meet as God’s people, we are to come with our hearts full of joy and thanksgiving, praising God for his glory and goodness, his majesty and power, his justice and love. The Scriptures also call on us not to harden our hearts towards God, but to hear his voice and confess our failure to honour and glorify him as we should. So we read in the Bible that:

The minister reads one of the following.

God commanded his people, Israel,

**1.** I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

**2.** You shall not make for yourself any idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the sinfulness of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

 **3.** You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will

 not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

 **4.** Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your

 work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any

 work— you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the

 alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea,

 and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the

 sabbath day and consecrated it.

 **5.** Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the

 LORD your God is giving you.

 **6.** You shall not murder.

 **7.** You shall not commit adultery.

 **8.** You shall not steal.

 **9.** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

 **10.** You shall not covet your neighbour’s household. You shall not covet your neighbour’s

 wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

 (*Exodus 20:1-17*)

*Or*

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (*Matthew 22:37-40*)

All sit or kneel and, after a brief silence for reflection, join in a general confession.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have gone our own way,

 and have not loved you as we ought,

 nor loved our neighbour as ourselves.

We have failed to do what we should have done,

 and we have done what we should not have done.

We have broken your commands and justly deserve your condemnation.

 Father, we are truly sorry.

For the sake of Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past.

By your Spirit turn our hearts to love you and to love our neighbour.

 Help us to live a godly and obedient life for your honour and glory,

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister, standing, says,

 Almighty God our heavenly Father,

 who has promised to forgive the sins

 of all who turn to him with faith and repentance,

 have mercy on you,

 pardon and free you from all your sins,

 strengthen you in doing good,

 and keep you in eternal life,

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### 4. Thanksgiving and Joy

This ‘Hymn of Praise’, or another, may be said or sung, or at #13.

 Glory to God in the highest

 and peace to his people on earth.

 Lord God, heavenly King,

 almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

 Lord God, Lamb of God,

 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the holy one; you alone are the Lord;
 you alone are the Most High,

 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,

 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

##### 5. Bible Readings

A prayer for the day or this prayer for the hearing of God’s word may be said.

Lord, you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Help us so to read, understand, and truly receive them, that encouraged and supported by your holy word, we may embrace and always hold fast to the joyful hope of eternal life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Bible readings follow, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.

##### 6. Creed

We believe in one God,

 the Father, the Almighty,

 maker of heaven and earth,

 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

 the only Son of God,

 eternally begotten of the Father,

 God from God, Light from Light,

 true God from true God,

 begotten, not made,

 of one Being with the Father;

 through him all things were made.

 For us and for our salvation

 he came down from heaven

 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit

 and the virgin Mary,

 and became truly human.

 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

 he suffered death and was buried.

 On the third day he rose again

 in accordance with the Scriptures;

 he ascended into heaven

 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

 He will come again in glory to judge

 the living and the dead,

 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

 who with the Father and the Son

 is worshipped and glorified,

 who has spoken through the prophets.

 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

 We look for the resurrection of the dead,

 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

##### 7. Sermon

A sermon is preached here or after the prayers, especially when there is no Communion.

##### 8. Collection

The minister may first say one or more of the following:

Whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 6:10

Do not to neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. Galatians 6:6

You know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

 2 Corinthians 8:9

During the collection a hymn may be sung. The minister places the collection on the table.

Sufficient bread and wine is placed on the table.

**THE PRAYERS**

##### 9. Prayers

The minister, or those appointed, pray for the nations, the church and for people in need, using this form or other appropriate prayers.

Let us pray for God's people everywhere, and for the needs and the peace of the world.

Almighty God and Father, sustainer and saviour of your creation, hear our prayers for all people, especially for all Christians throughout the world.

Sovereign Lord, direct and govern the leaders of the nations. Give them the will and the wisdom to resolve tension and conflict so that all people may live in harmony and peace. We pray especially for the leaders of our nation; give wisdom, grace, and integrity to the Queen of Australia, to the Prime Minister…, and the Premier …, and to all members of parliament. Strengthen all judges, magistrates and police to uphold justice and truth. Help our nation to share the resources you have given us, so that people everywhere may enjoy with gratitude the fruits of your creation.

 Father hear our prayer,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We thank you Lord of all, for the gifts of Christ our ascended king: for apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Send out your light and truth through those who proclaim Christ. Fill with compassion and spiritual understanding the pastors of your church (and in particular N our Archbishop, *N* our Bishop, and N our Minister). May their lives and their teaching commend the truth of your word. Give your heavenly grace Lord, to all your people, and especially to this congregation. Renew us and make us holy. Help us to live in the unity of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, enabling us to persevere together in the hope of glory, living in peace with one another.

 Father hear our prayer,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We commend to your fatherly care, merciful God, all those who in this passing world are in any kind of trouble, sorrow, sickness, anxiety or need (especially we pray for…). Give them patience and confidence in your goodness, and in your mercy provide their every need.

 Father hear our prayer,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise your name for all your servants in whose life and death Christ has been honoured. Grant that, encouraged by their witness, we may run the race that is set before us, and with them share the fullness of joy at your right hand; through Christ who is the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Amen.

The Prayers conclude with the Lord’s Prayer, said by 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.

A hymn may be sung.

**PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION**

##### 10. Introduction to Communion

The minister may say one of the following

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body... and we were all given one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

The minister gives the following or a similar exhortation.

The holy communion is an occasion for remembrance and thanksgiving, for penitence and joy. Through his death on the cross, our Saviour Christ reconciled us to God and to one another. Before coming to the Lord’s table to eat the bread and drink from the cup, each of us must consider not only our commitment to God but also to one another. We must love and care for one another as fellow members of Christ's body, the church; otherwise we bring God’s condemnation upon us. You who trust in Christ and intend to follow his commands, draw near, and feed on Christ by faith. Take this bread and this cup with thanksgiving, in remembrance that he died for you.

Or,

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink, without considering the meaning of the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves.

 (1 Corinthians 11:26-29)

The minister reads one or more of the following sentences.

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” *(Matthew 11:28)*

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” *(John 3:16)*

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. (Romans 5: 8,9)

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

##### THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

##### 11. Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

He is worthy to be praised.

The minister says

You are indeed worthy, Lord God, to receive all glory and honour and power, for you are the creator and sustainer of all things. But especially we praise and thank you, heavenly Father, for our Saviour Jesus Christ, bright image of your glory, and your eternal Word, who took the form of a servant, was born in our likeness, and died for us on the cross.

By his death he has offered the one perfect sacrifice,

 all that was needed to take away the sins of the world,

 and to reconcile you, his Father, to us.
By his rising to life, he has restored us to life eternal,

and has given us your promised Holy Spirit, the guarantee of our inheritance.

Therefore with your whole creation and with all your people since time began,

we honour and glorify you, with words of never ending praise, saying,

All say

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

*All say*

We dare not come to your table, merciful Lord,

 trusting in our own goodness, but in your grace alone.

We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your table.

 Gracious Father, grant that we who receive these gifts of bread and wine

 according to our Saviour’s word,

 may eat his body and drink his blood,

 that we may always live in him, and he in us. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The minister takes the bread and gives thanks.

Almighty God, we thank you for this bread, and for all you provide to sustain us. Above all, merciful Father, we thank you for Christ your Son, given for the life of the world. Amen.

Breaking the bread in the sight of all, the minister says

This bread we break is a participation in the body of Christ.

Thank you Father for making us one with Christ.

The minister takes the cup and gives thanks.

Almighty God, we thank you for this fruit of the vine, and for every good gift that gives us joy. We thank you above all for Christ our Lord, by whose blood you have bought us and bound us to be your people in an everlasting covenant. Amen.

Indicating the cup the minister says

This cup for which we give thanks is a participation in the blood of Christ.

Thank you Father for making us yours forever.

##### 12. Communion

The minister partakes of the bread and the wine, and distributes to other communicants.

Those who distribute the bread say

Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

And those who deliver the cup say

Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful. **Amen.**

**GOING OUT TO SERVE**

##### 13. Thanksgiving and Commitment

*The minister says*

We have shared at the table of the Lord

*All say*

 Thank you, heavenly Father,

 for the assurance that we shall eat and drink with Christ

 when he comes in the glory of his kingdom.]

The minister says

Remember Father, your church bought by the blood of your Son,

 and gather it in holiness into the kingdom you have prepared for it.

Direct us by your Spirit in all our ways.
Stir us to live lives to your glory.
Make us faithful witnesses to Jesus and his resurrection,

 eager for the joy of his coming,
 and made worthy to worship you with all your saints for ever.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

A hymn or the ‘Hymn of Praise’ may be sung.

##### 14. Blessing or Prayer of Dismissal

The minister dismisses the people, saying, the following, or a seasonal benediction, or appropriate words from Scripture.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord:

 **In the name of Christ. Amen.**