

Communion Liturgy

INVITATION

SERVANT Peace be with you.

COMMUNITY And also with you.

SERVANT Welcome to the supper of the lamb. It is the meal that reconciles all of creation and has since the beginning. It is the never-ending meal, ever-extending to a hungry and hurting world. It is a five-course feast to which we are all invited. Like all good meals it nourishes the whole of who we are. We pause to consider the meal itself and contemplate its gift. In the words of St. Augustine, we behold who we are and become what we receive – the Body of Christ.

CONTEMPLATION

SERVANT First course: TAKEN in Love

COMMUNITY We are chosen by God – taken into God's loving hands. We feast on God's love as the foundation of all life and transformation.
All of creation is taken into the love that is its source.

SERVANT Second course: BLESSED in Love

COMMUNITY In the loving hands of God, we are blessed. We drink deeply of the Incarnation as the blessing of God's presence in the world.

SERVANT Third course: BROKEN in Love

COMMUNITY We are broken in and through the love of God. We taste God's own experience of suffering on the cross, and how that experience transforms death into life.

SERVANT Fourth course: GIVEN in Love

COMMUNITY As broken ones, we are given to a broken world. We savor life inside of the resurrection and its gift to the world.

SERVANT Fifth course: SPOKEN in Love

COMMUNITY We digest the living Word that speaks all of life into existence.

CONTEMPLATION continued

SERVANT

Yes, all of creation is being taken, blessed, broken, given in love that we might become the spoken Word of God calling forth life from death.

We are all invited to the table to undergo and celebrate its mystery. This is not a private meal that separates us from the rest of the world. It's the meal that unites us with the world, especially those who are most vulnerable. It is a public feast that declares that God is with us always, in all ways.

The host of this meal is Jesus, the victim of human violence who is raised from the dead, who returns to forgive us and call forth a new humanity. It is he who happily invites us to the table, who serves the meal of our salvation and joyfully sends us out to act in his name with courage, creativity and compassion.

COMMUNITY

Feed us, O God. We are hungry and thirsty for life.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

SERVANT

Lord, you have been the stranger among us, preparing this meal since the foundations of the world. Here, at this meal, you have declared that there is enough for all and room for all. It is the sign of your peace into which we now enter.

COMMUNITY

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us peace.

SERVANT

Jesus, you said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

COMMUNITY

Lord, make us instruments of your peace and a sign of your unity at work in the world.

SERVANT

Jesus, we come to the table having tasted the reality of your goodness and the mystery of your abundant love. We also come having tasted the bitterness of our own sin and the sin of others. We are part of a love-starved world that craves that which cannot satisfy. You've happily let go of all our sin long, long ago, and yet we drag it to the table with us, unsure of how to live without it. We come to the table tempted to stuff ourselves in fear or starve ourselves in shame.

COMMUNITY

Have mercy, O God. Forgive us for all the ways we diminish the meal you have provided; for all the ways we are ruled by the myth of scarcity; for all the ways we grumble at the table; for all the ways we guard against your mercy and withhold it from others; for all of our misplaced and displaced desires that have caused so much harm. Heal us, we pray.

Song “Amazing Grace” or other appropriate song

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SERVANT “On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said, ‘Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, blessed it, and gave it for all to drink, and said, ‘This cup is the blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.’” The Apostle Paul adds, “For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

COMMUNITY Jesus, like the disciples who were blind to your real presence until they dined with you in the resurrection, we too are blind until you dine with us. You are the stranger among us, revealed as the loving Host of the meal of our reconciliation. Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see and celebrate you at work in the world, especially in the hard places, creating, sustaining, and uniting all of creation.

SERVANT Sisters and brothers, behold the lamb of God. Behold the One who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

COMMUNITY May we become what we behold and now receive with open hearts.

THE MEAL

Participants come forward to receive the eucharist. Two stations, one with bread and the other with wine. Servers say, “The body of Christ broken for you”...“The Blood of Christ shed for you.” Response: “Amen”

OUR LORD’S PRAYER – After all have received eucharist and are standing holding hands or hands lifted. Community is encouraged to pray the Lord’s Prayer in their own language and according to their own tradition.

COMMUNITY Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name. May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SERVANT

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us because She has anointed us to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

We pray all of this in the name of the Father who is for us, the Son who is with us, and the Spirit who unites us all in the never-ending dance of Love.

Go in peace.

COMMUNITY

Amen.