**The Service of Word and Holy Communion**

**An Order**

**Called to Worship**

*As the people gather for worship, it is appropriate to greet one another as friends in Christ or to engage in silent prayer*.

**Musical Prelude**

**Processional And Presentation Of Scriptures**

*The people will stand and remain standing until after the prayer of adoration. A lay person may lead the procession and place the Bible on the pulpit or reading desk. The participants in the processional may enter in silence or during the singing of a congregational hymn of praise.* *Responses of the people are in bold face type.*

**Hymn Of Praise**

**Greeting And Call To Worship**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**. *Ruth 2:4.*

O magnify the Lord with me,

**Let us exalt the name of the Lord together.** *Ps. 34:3.*

Let us worship God. Let us pray.

**Prayer Of Adoration**

Holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ,

sharing our joy and sorrow,

manifesting your greatness in the child of the manger,

revealing your Lordship in the master

washing his disciples' feet,

showing forth your glory in the shame of the cross.

And so we praise you for your love

which is great enough to embrace the universe,

yet close enough to enter our hearts.

During our worship,

surprise us with your grace

that we, with the rest of the church

and the whole creation, may praise and adore you,

O God, our Creator and Redeemer.  **Amen**.

**A Rite Of Reconciliation**

*A rite of reconciliation will include an invitation, a prayer of confession, an absolution or assurance of pardon and a sign of peace or reconciliation. If* the peace *is used at another place in the service, it should be omitted here. The people may sit or kneel.*

*The minister says:*

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

while we were sinners

Christ died for us. *Rom. 5:8.*

In humility and faith

let us confess our sin to God.

*The Confession of Sin is said in unison.*

**Merciful God,**

**in your gracious presence**

**we confess our sin**

**and the sin of this world.**

**Although Christ is among us as our peace,**

**we are a people divided against ourselves**

**as we cling to the values of a broken world.**

**The profit and pleasures we pursue**

**lay waste the land**

**and pollute the seas.**

**The fears and jealousies that we harbour**

**set neighbour against neighbour**

**and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts**

**of imagination and freedom,**

**intellect and reason,**

**and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Heal us, forgive us and set us free**

**to serve you in the world**

**as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

*Silence*

*The people stand* *for the* assurance of pardon *and* the peace *as the minister says*:

Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ,

and Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us. *Rom. 8:34.*

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone;

a new life has begun. *II Cor. 5:17.*

Friends, believe the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Since we are reconciled to God in Christ,

let us share the sign of peace with one another.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

**The peace of Christ be with you.**

*The people will reach out to one another with an appropriate sign of Peace*.

Hymn

**The Word Proclaimed**

*The prayer for illumination comes before the reading of the lessons from the Scripture and the preaching. There is no need for a second prayer for illumination before the sermon. The lessons may be introduced by simply announcing the scriptural reference followed by the words, "Hear the word of God."*

**Prayer For Illumination**

Lord, open our hearts and minds

by the power of your Spirit

that we may hear your living Word

as the Scriptures are read and interpreted. **Amen**.

**Old Testament**

*The reading may conclude with the words:*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

*In response to the Old Testament lesson, the psalm may be read or sung.*

**Epistle**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**.

**The Gospel**

*The Gospel reading may conclude with the words:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**.

**The Sermon**

*The sermon concludes with an ascription of praise*.

Praise and glory,

thanksgiving and honour

be to our God for ever and ever. **Amen**.

**Affirmation Of Faith**

*In response to the word proclaimed, the people stand to affirm their faith by saying or singing a creed of the church, or a statement of faith from Scripture or other approved source. If baptism follows, the Apostles' Creed is included and no other statement is necessary.*

**The Nicene 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.**

**Prayers Of The People**

*Prayers of the people normally include intercessions for the church, the world and the nation but may include other specific concerns of the people, supplications and thanksgivings. The prayers may take many forms. Only one model is given below*.

Loving God, in Jesus Christ you teach us to pray

and to present our petitions to you in his name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit,

that our prayers for others may serve your will

and show your steadfast love for all.

Gracious God,

you have called together a people to be the church of

Jesus Christ.

May your people be one in faith and discipleship,

breaking bread together,

and telling good news

so that the world may believe you are love,

turn to your ways,

and live in the light of your truth.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**.

Creator God, you made all things and called them good.

May your planet earth be held in reverence

by all people.

May its resources be used wisely

and its fragile balance between life and death respected.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**.

Eternal Ruler,

in your mighty realm the nations rise and fall.

Hear our prayers for those who rule the nations,

that they may learn wisdom and truth,

establish justice and mercy,

and seek the ways of peace.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**.

*Prayers spoken by the people or offered silently may be included here followed by*:

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**.

Ever faithful God,

you have knit together as one body in Christ

those who have been your people in all times and places.

Keep us in communion with your saints

following the example of faith and life

which they set before us,

and bring us to the joy which you have prepared in your presence.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Concluding petition:*

Eternal God,

ruler of all things in heaven and earth,

accept the prayers of your people,

and strengthen us to do your will;

through Jesus Christ.  **Amen**.

A Hymn *or canticle may be sung*.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*The presiding minister moves to the table to offer* *the* Invitation To The Lord's Table.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!

They will come from east and west,

and from north and south,

and sit at table in the kingdom of God. *Luke 13:29.*

According to Luke,

when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,

he took bread, blessed,

broke it and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened

and they recognized him. *Luke 24:30, 31.*

This is the Lord's table.65

Our Saviour invites all those who trust him

to share the feast which he has prepared.

O taste and see that the Lord is good.  *Ps. 34:8a.*

*The words of institution may be included here if they are not being used in the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving or in the Breaking of Bread. See words of warrant, page 78.*

The Presentation Of Gifts

*The minister says:*

Let us return to God

the offerings of our life

and the gifts of the earth.

*An appropriate sentence from Scripture may be added. See page 77.*

*An anthem or hymn may be sung as the offerings of money are received from the people. The elders or others who will assist in serving communion retire to the place where the bread and wine are in readiness.*

**Preparation Of The Table**

*There are several ways to prepare the table. The gifts may be carried in procession to the table during the singing of a communion hymn or doxological stanzas. First the bread, then the wine, then the gifts of money are received by the presiding minister and the table is arranged in silence. The money is placed on or near the table.*

*When all is ready, the minister and people proceed to the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. The people who are able stand for prayer.*

*When communion is not served, the service continues with a prayer of thanksgiving.*

**The Great Prayer Of Thanksgiving 1**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord**.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

with joy we give you thanks and praise.

*Here may follow a preface suitable for the day, season or occasion. See pages 80 to 82. The one below is a General Preface.*

You commanded light to shine out of darkness,

divided the sea and dry land,

created the vast universe and called it good.

You made us in your image

to live with one another in love.

You gave us the breath of life

and freedom to choose your way.

You set forth your purpose

in commandments through Moses,

and called for justice in the cry of prophets.

Through long generations

you have been patient and kind to all your children.

*The preface concludes:*

How wonderful are your ways, almighty God.

How marvellous is your name, O Holy One.

You alone are God.

Therefore with apostles and prophets,

and that great cloud of witnesses

who live for you beyond all time and space,

we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, most holy God,

for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us,

full of grace and truth.

Sharing our joy and sorrow,

he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners.

Obeying you,

he took up his cross and died that we might live.

We praise you that he overcame death

and is risen to rule the world.

He is still the friend of sinners.

We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us,

and believe that when he comes in glory

we will celebrate victory with him.

*The words of institution may be said here or in relation to the breaking of the bread*.

[We thank you that on the night before he died,

Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,

broke the bread and said

"Take, eat.

This is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood.

Do this for the remembrance of me."]

Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we take this bread and this cup

and give you praise and thanksgiving

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,

and upon this bread and wine,

that we, and all who share this feast,

may be one with Christ and he with us.

Here we offer ourselves to be a living sacrifice,

holy and acceptable to you.

In your mercy,

accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Fill us with the joy of eternal life,

that we may be your faithful people

until we feast with you in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honour are yours, almighty God,

for ever and ever. **Amen**.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**The Breaking Of Bread**

*If the words of institution were included in the Invitation or in the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, the following may be used.*

Because there is one bread,

we who are many are one body,

for we all partake of the one bread. *I Cor. 10:17*.

*Here the presiding minister takes the loaf and breaks it in full view of the congregation, saying:*

When we break the bread,

it is a sharing in the body of Christ. *I Cor. 10:16*.

*Here the minister pours the wine and lifts the cup, saying:*

When we bless the cup,

it is a sharing in the blood of Christ. *I Cor. 10:16*.

*The minister then holds out both the bread and the cup to the people*.

The gifts of God

for the people of God.

**The Communion**

*The minister and those who will assist in serving receive both the bread and wine. They then proceed to serve the people in the manner appointed.*

*During the distribution there may be silence, scriptural sentences may be said or a hymn may be sung*.

**Prayer After Communion**

*When all have been served, the meal concludes with a prayer offered by the minister or all*.

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery**

**in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world**

**in the strength of your Spirit,**

**to give ourselves for others**

**in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Dismissal**

**A Charge To The People**

*The minister or an elder may charge the people in the following or similar words*.

Go out into the world in peace.

Whatever you do, in word or deed,

do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,

giving thanks to God through him. *Col. 3:17.*

Hymn

*During the closing hymn, the movement outward may begin as the choir retires and the elders remove from the table any remaining bread and wine and vessels.*

**The Benediction**

*The minister, with hands raised over the people, pronounces a blessing:*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all. **Amen.** *II Cor. 13:13.*