

A liturgy for Holy Communion

...in a season of dispersion and distance.

This brief liturgy provides a way to celebrate Holy Communion in your home during this time of pandemic and social-distancing. The words of this celebration speak to our experience as a dispersed community, united by Christ at the table of Holy Communion. We hope these words fill your heart with joy and help you feel more connected to the Church throughout the world, especially during a time when we are physically apart.

This liturgy can be celebrated as a family or with friends via video chat. You may select a different reader for each portion of the liturgy, or have one person read the entire liturgy as you celebrate together.

*Places where the Reader speaks are in normal text, and **group responses are in bold.***

Prepare an area to set aside the elements of communion, bread and wine or juice. If possible, make this space special in your home and light a candle to begin this liturgy.

The Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high,
for in the communion of your love
Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.
Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us,
With all of earth and heaven,
with all the saints before and beside us,
with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you.
And with our loved ones, separate from us now,
who yet in this mystery are close to us,
we join in the song of your unending greatness:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Scripture Reading

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

I Corinthians 11:23-26 NRSV

Invitation to the Table

The table of the Lord is now to be made ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.
It is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate.
So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a while
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come. It is Christ who invites us.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.
Let us pray.

(You may offer a prayer of your own, or pray the Lord's Prayer)

**Our father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory forever, amen.**

He whose table was open to all
is now present in this bread.
He whose word welcomed friend and stranger
offers friendship through this cup.

**With people everywhere we affirm
God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

The gifts of God for the people of God...
Thanks be to God.

Share the meal. Offer the bread to one another saying, "The body of Christ, broken for you." Offer the cup to one another saying, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Prayer Following Communion

Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom. May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love.

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.

Amen.

*Elements of this liturgy are adapted from the communion liturgy of The **Iona Community**, a dispersed Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.*