

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Received at the Altar



Pastor: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited to participate in this holy mystery. Come.

People: We are ready!

Pastor: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty."

People: We have come, O Lamb of God, to seek your peace and mercy for our lives and to receive them at your table!

Pastor: We are here - we are ready to receive. Let us open our hearts and minds more fully to the spirit of love that God offers to us as we now pause to share these sacred words ...

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving, saying:

People: "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pastor: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving, and said:

People: "Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

Pastor: With gratitude, we invite you to come, Holy Spirit come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things and in our ordinary lives. Bless them that they may be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst.

Pastor: Through the broken bread:

People: We participate in the Body of Christ.

Pastor: Through the cup of blessing:

People: We participate in the new life Christ gives.

Pastor: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are now ready!

Pastor offers the Living Bread from the Plate

Person Responds: "Amen". Then eats.

Elders offer Trays of Wine or Juice

Person Responds: "Amen". Then drinks and drops empty cup into the basket provided.

Once all the people have received, the pastor will invite us to pray together the prayer of thanksgiving below.

All: Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us at your table with holy food and drink. Now, make us one in the body of Christ and send us into the world to do your work - to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and to make those with power care for those without it. Give us the strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all that we say and do – the good news of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Sung Response: See the Bulletin