

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion Received at the Altar

All Christians, including children and visitors are welcome to participate whenever we celebrate God's love for us in this way.

*Please note that the bread that the pastor will serve you is not gluten free, but we have gluten free wafers available – just ask for one when you approach the plate. An elder next to the pastor will hold the tray of communion cups so that you can select either red containing wine or white containing juice. When done, put your cup in the basket provided.*

**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!



Come forward to receive, beginning with the by people on the piano side of the church - starting at the front to back. Then the people on the window side of the church, front to back. Approach one at a time to receive the bread and eat; then go to the trays and drink; then put your empty cup in the basket provided on the front pew. Return to your seat using the window side aisle of the church and then take the center aisle to your pew. During this time, please maintain a quiet, peaceful mood for the sake of those among us who are in the midst of prayer. Thank you.

**Pastor offers the Living Bread from the Plate**

**Person Responds: "Amen".** Then eats.

**Elders offer Trays of Wine or Grape 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 Bulletin**