

# A Service For The Celebration of The Lord's Supper

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## A Service of Communion.

(During the invitation hymn, the elders stand at the front of the center aisle to welcome those who might respond to the invitation. **If there have been responses**, at the close of the hymn the elders return to their seats at the front of the choir. Following the confession of faith, the elders proceed to the Lord's Table, remove the covers from the trays and turn to face the congregation. The choir sings during this time. **If no one responds to the invitations**, the elders go immediately to the Lord's Table.)

### 1. Elder #1 - INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

**This is the Lord's Table.**

**Our Savior invites those who trust him to participate in the feast which he has prepared.**

**All Christians are welcome at this table.**

Come (on occasion, the elder may say, **open your heart, prepare yourself,**) **for all is ready.**

### 2. Elder #2 - READING OF THE SCRIPTURAL WORDS OF PREPARATION

### 3. HYMN OR SOLO

(A soloist will sing one stanza of a communion hymn. As the solo begins the deacons will rise and come to the table. The elders will distribute the communion trays to them, saying to each deacon at the tray is given, "God bless you, (deacon's first name)." They do not partake at this time.)

### 4. Elder#1 - THE PEACE

**Beloved, (Friends or Dear Friends may also be used) this is the joyful feast of the people of God.**

**Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.**

**The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.**

### 5. Elder #2 - COMMUNION PRAYER

### 6. Elders #1 & #2 - DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

a. (Elder #1 takes the loaf from the bread tray in both hands, holds it up clearly before the congregation, and says:) **Jesus took bread and said, This is my Body which is broken** (at the word "broken," the elder tears the loaf into two pieces) **for you.** (The elder lays the two halves together in his hands, offers the bread to elder #2, who breaks off a piece, lifts it up and says:) **Do this in remembrance of me.** (Then elders and deacons all partake of the bread, and elder #1 places the remaining bread back on the tray.)

b. (Elder #2 takes both chalices, turns, lifts one chalice high so the congregation can see, and says:) **And Jesus took a cup, and he gave it to them saying, this is my blood of the covenant poured out** (the elder pours half the wine into the empty chalice as these words are said) **for many for the remission of sins.** (Elder #2 passes the cup in the right hand to Elder #1, who receives it in the left hand. Both elders lift their chalices high as Elder #2 says:) **Drink of it, all of you.** (Elders and deacons drink of the wine. Elder #2 takes both chalices and places them in their original position on the table. Both elders then sit beside the table)

c. (The deacons distribute the bread and the wine to the waiting congregation, saying to each person to whom they pass the tray, "God bless you, (person's first name)" or "God bless you , my friend.")

## 7. CONCLUSION OF THE COMMUNION SERVICE

(When the deacons are two-thirds finished serving the congregation, the choir begins to sing softly a verse of a closing hymn.)

(When there is a baptismal service, the choir dispenses with the closing communion hymn and sings hymn #429 - "He That Believes and Is Baptized." The organist sounds three chimes. As the minister and the candidate enter the baptistery, the choir sings the first stanza. Baptisms follow. After the minister's prayer, following the last baptism, the choir sings the last stanza of hymn #429. The recessional hymn and benediction follow as usual.)

## SOME SCRIPTURAL WORDS OF PREPARATION:

Luke the Evangelist wrote of our risen Lord that "when he was at the table with them, he took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him." (Luke 24:30,31)

"Surely the Lord is in this place....This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (Genesis 28:16, 17)

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'" (1 Corinthians 11:23-2

## SAMPLE COMMUNION PAYERS:

"We give thanks to you, we praise you, we glorify you, O Lord our God, who did so love the world that you gave your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon your church, that to its members may come new visions, new life, new fellowship with Christ. Make us strong to serve you that the earth may be filled with your knowledge as the waters cover the sea. And to you be the glory and the praise, now and forevermore. Amen."

"Grant forgiveness to us, O Lord, for all acts of malice and unkindness, all blindness and hardness of heart. Give to us the mind of Christ that we may come this celebration of holy communion determined to feel for each other and with each other; to put ourselves in our neighbor's place; to see with their eyes and feel with their hearts; to make allowances for their mistakes and failings; to give and forgive, even as you have given and forgiven us, That we may all be indeed your children. May our fellowship be marked by mutual trust and help and affection and humility. In the name of Jesus. Amen."