

PASTORAL SERVICES

THE LORD'S SUPPER IN HOME AND HOSPITAL

The Lord's Supper should be celebrated with those who are ill or homebound when it is celebrated by the congregation, or at those times when it may serve as a visible sign and seal of Christ's ministry of care and healing. To show the communal character of the Lord's Supper, it is encouraged that family members and friends be invited to participate.

This service should be conducted by the pastor with an elder, or by two or more elders specifically appointed to administer the sacrament by the board of elders. The celebrant may carefully abbreviate the service given the physical condition of the recipient.

The cloth should be put in place, the plate, bread, and cups set out.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

VOTUM

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Amen.

SALUTATION

Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Now in the presence of the Lord,
let us confess our sins.
Let us pray in silence.

Silence

O God, who hears our prayers before we speak,
who knows our needs before we name them,
you have heard the confessions of our hearts.
Grant us now your mercy and forgiveness
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who came into the world breaking sin's bond,
rescuing us from sin, and bringing us to new life.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:17

THE WORD OF GOD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE LESSON

A psalm or other brief passage of Scripture may be read.

And/or

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35

MEANING

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Holy Supper we are about to celebrate
is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope.
We come remembering that our Lord Jesus Christ
perfectly fulfilled the law, even to death on the cross.
Because of God's eternal covenant of grace, we are accepted.
We will never be forsaken.

We come to commune with this same Christ
who has promised to be with us always.
Christ is the true Bread which nourishes us
and the Vine in whom we must live if we are to bear fruit.
The Holy Spirit unites us into one body
and in communion with all the saints.
So we receive this supper in Christ's love
and our affection for one another.

We come in hope believing that
as surely as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we will be raised from the dead into eternal life.

This is the Lord's Table. Come, for all things are now ready.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty and everlasting God.
You created the heavens and the earth;
you preserve us with your care;
you revealed the fullness of your love for us
by sending Jesus Christ.
By his life, death, and resurrection
you have reconciled us to yourself.

With the heavenly host
and with the saints of all times and places,
we lift up our hearts in joyful praise, saying:

**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.

Gracious God,
send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
that the bread which we break
and the cup which we bless
may be to us the communion
of the body and blood of Christ.

Accept the gift of our lives
that we may live in you and serve your kingdom.
Being joined together in Christ,
may your whole church be one;
and at the last day bring us with all your saints
into the joy of your eternal kingdom.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread;
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it

The minister shall break the bread.

and gave it to them, saying,

“Take, eat;
this is my body which is given for you:
do this in remembrance of me.”

Lifting the cup, the minister shall say:

After the same manner also, he took the cup when they had supped,
saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood:
this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

As the bread is distributed:

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

As the cup is distributed:

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Here, prayer shall be offered with specific reference to the needs of the person who is ill or homebound. Prayers should include the whole church.

THANKSGIVING

Since the Lord has now fed us at his Table,
let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him,

who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all,
and will also give us all things with him.

**Therefore shall my mouth and heart
show forth the praise of the Lord,
from this time forth forevermore.
Amen.**

From Psalm 103, with additions

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

May the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always.
Amen.