

Communion Service
(Clay Pots)

Invitation:

One: We are all formed from the dust of the earth. We were all drawn out of the miry clay. Each of us has been awesomely and wondrously made. Each of us is deeply loved by our Creator and invited to join with Them as this table. Come and enjoy the blessings of salvation. Amen.

Confession:

All: Forgive us for complaining about Your handiwork. We have not always appreciated the work of Your hands in our lives nor in the lives of others. Forgive us for believing that we could have done better; that we would have chosen a different form or shape; a different type of functionality. We have been stubborn, unresponsive clay. We have not always responded readily to Your gentle touch. Baptize us afresh and give to us new life. We seek only to be used of You for Your glory and honor and not for our own vainglory. Amen.

Assurance of Salvation:

One: God has wiped away all our dirt and grime. God has polished us and now we reflect Their glory. When God looks upon us, They see someone truly wonderful. Through the sacrifice of Christ, you are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

All: God has wiped away all your dirt and grime. God has polished you so you reflect Their glory. When God looks upon you, They see someone truly wonderful. Through the sacrifice of Christ, you are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

One: God is the potter.

All: We are but clay.

One: It is God who has made us,

All: And not we ourselves.

One: Therefore we and all the earth shall make a joyful noise.

**All: We shall serve our Lord with gladness;
and come into Their presence with singing!**

One: Our hearts do sing before You.

Out of the earth You dug out our clay.

With Your own hands to shaped our mud into Your very image
and breathed into us with Your own Holy Spirit
making us fully and truly alive.

Thank You! For we are awesomely and wondrously made.

Each of our lives, in all of our rich variety, were crafted with purpose and plan.

When we ate of Your tree in Eden, we thought our eyes were opened, and we started to

judge

as if we were You;
as if we were the potter instead of the clay.
We have sinned by judging the potter and Their skill.
We have sinned by judging others, the exquisite work of Your hand.
We have sinned by judging Your sacred plan for us and others,
having the audacity to believe, that it was our right to lord over You,
the lover of our souls.
Thank You, for not just throwing us away in the garbage dump.
Thank You, for not taking Your life giving Spirit from us.
Thank You, for that even at this late date, You still find value in us.
Thank You, for choosing to fill these humble earthen vessels with Your love,
pressed down and overflowing, a precious treasure.

How can we not join in the dance of praise before You?
How can we not seek out others,
throughout the earth to join with us in our praises before You?
How can we not join with all those in heaven,
throwing down our crowns and humbling ourselves before You, proclaiming:

**All: Salvation has come!
God's peaceful kingdom comes!
Love's authority!**

**Every accuser,
Those accusing before God,
Have been thrown down!**

**Washed now by the blood,
The Lamb's own testimony,
Our evil has died.**

**Rejoice you heavens
And all that dwells within them
evil's time is short!** (Revelation 12:10b-12 adapted)

One: Your love has come, the precious Lamb of God, Jesus.
Taking upon themselves the dust, the dirt and the grim of this world
Jesus came and dwelt among us.
They showed us how to live without judgement.
Jesus did not come to judge the world,
for They did not cling to that which was by right God's.
Jesus accepted people for who they were,
those with unclean lips,
those with a flow of blood,
those caught in adultery,

and without judgement invited them to live in healthier ways.

When his disciples wrestled over who was the greatest,
Jesus did not judge them, but showed them true greatness.
The greatest among us is the one willing to serve,
so Jesus quietly took up the towel and basin
and humbly washed the feet of all those present.
The potter was reshaping the clay.

As Jesus took the Passover bread with prayers of gratitude,
all remembered without judgement the many lives still held in bondage.
Breaking the bread, Jesus shared it with all, with these words:
“Take a piece and eat, for this is my body broken and given for you.”
The potter was reshaping the clay.

Later Jesus took a cup of Passover wine with prayers of gratitude,
all remembered without judgement the high price God pays to cleans the sins of the
world.

Sharing the cup, Jesus passed it to all with these words:
“Take a sip from this cup of my blood, which I pour out in celebration of God’s
everlasting covenant of grace, granting not only the forgiveness of all of your sins,
but also all the sins of the world.”
The potter was reshaping the clay.

Thank You for taking the care to reshape the clay of our lives.
Thank You for the care You take to make our lives right before Your keen eyes.
Thank You for giving us a clear path to follow, free from all judgement
seen in this holy mystery we now declare before all the world:

**All: The death Christ died was real.
The resurrection of Christ was real.
Christ really comes again.**

One: Artisan of Hope, Molder of Lives,
touch will Your skill these gifts of bread and wine,
transform them for us into the very body and blood of Christ,
Your gift to the world.

Artisan of Hope, Molder of Lives,
touch with Your skill the gifts of our lives: physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual;
transforming them for the world into Your holy church,
the messy body and very human bride of Christ,
Your gift to the world.

Artisan of Hope, Molder of Lives,
touch Your church with its feet of clay.

Baptize us with living waters and to make us more pliable.
Reshape our clay and make us more useful in the redemption of this changing world.
Fill anew these clay pots of Yours with the riches of Your kingdom:
love, mercy, forgiveness, attentiveness, kindness, and self-control.

We pray with Jesus who takes away the sins of the world.
We pray through the Holy Spirit who breaths love into our souls.
We pray by the grace of the One who creates all things new,
filling us with hope, purpose, and holy delight.
May this our worship be pleasing in Your sight, now and always.
Amen.

Now let us pray according to the pattern set before us by Jesus:

**All: Skillful Potter, who shapes every life and every world in the universe.
You are imaginative, creative, resourceful, and brilliant!
Thank You for providing enough for us daily, with plenty to share.
Forgive us for playing God with You and with the lives of others,
just as we forgive those who are playing God with our own lives.
Lead us away from the temptation to judge good and evil,
and deliver us from the pride of thinking that we are better than anyone else.
For You alone are the potter and all of us are only clay, Your splendid creation,
always. Amen.**

Prayer after communion:

With deep gratitude we thank You for inviting us to share in this holy mystery of grace in Jesus Christ. We appreciate not only the example Jesus sets for us, but for the Holy Spirit giving us the ability to reflect this same grace to the world around us. As You send us out, open the eyes of our hearts to see the world without judgement like Jesus did. Let us not become shaped by this world, but by Your word, make us Your gift of love to others. May our lives bring You glory in all we say and do in Jesus name. Amen.