

Service of Holy Communion for the fifth Sunday of Lent
(Devotion)

Invitation:

One: Come and share your devotion. Pour out your most costly gift at the feet of Jesus.
Jesus welcomes your devotion. Christ is open to your love. Come, join with Christ at
this table. You would never be turned away.

Confession:

All: We have not always given you our best. At times we have tried to give you only the bare minimum of devotion, a small token of our esteem. At times we find ourselves going through the motions. We know you deserve so much more. You desire a gift that captures the joy to our hearts. You desire gifts express the love we hold for you. Please accept the sweet perfume that flows from our hearts, the pearl of great price that means all the world to us. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: God does not demand your sacrifices. God is satisfied with your love. What God gives to you is given freely, before you have done anything at all. Forgiveness is your gift from God through Jesus Christ.

All: God demands no sacrifices from you either and is satisfied by your love. What God has given you is given freely, before you have done anything at all. Forgiveness is your gift too from God through Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

Thanksgiving:

One: We come bearing the precious oil of our lives.

All: We pour our devotion out before you.

One: You ask for nothing.

All: We desire to give you everything.

One: You are the melody that causes our hearts to swell.

All: You are the rhythm of life that pulses through out our being.

One: We feel compelled to worship you.
Your goodness saturates our lives:
strengthening us with your faith,
filling us with your visions of hope for our future,
and grounding us in your love.

The insects that fill our world praise you.
The birds of the air exult you each morning.
The animals who dwell around us declare your name.
Every plant proclaims your glory.
We choose to join them all and heaven too in saying:

**All: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
God of mercy, wisdom, and grace.**

**We are so blessed to be called by your name,
and to follow in all of your ways.**

One: We are blessed by you, and we thank you for Jesus.
Claiming no goodness, Christ declared you to be the only good in the world.
Claiming no power, Jesus shared that every good and perfect gift comes from you.
Emptying himself of everything, into your hands Jesus commended his spirit.
And you in return gave to Jesus a name above all names,
causing every knee to bow and every tongue to confess
that Jesus Christ deserves our devotion.

The disciples believed Jesus needed a seat of honor,
but accepting your call, chose instead to become a servant to all.
Jesus not only washed the feet of all,
but willingly died on the cross for all.

All: We accept your invitation to come and follow.

One: As Jesus celebrated Passover with the men and women at the feast,
Jesus said a prayer to bless the bread and broke it saying:
“Take a piece and share, this is my body broken for all.”

All: We accept your invitation to come and follow.

One: As Jesus celebrated Passover with the men and women at the feast.
Jesus said a prayer to bless the wine and poured it saying:
“Take a sip and share, this is the cup of my blood,
shed in recognition of God’s eternal covenant of grace,
promising forgiveness of all sins and
providing restorative justice to all the world.”

All: We accept your invitation to come and follow.

One: Your invitation to become your disciple brings us joy
and with eager steps we follow, proclaiming this holy mystery with our lips:

**All: Rejoice! Christ has died for all.
Rejoice! Christ lives with all.
Rejoice! Christ will come again in all.**

One: Act of Praise, Fragrant Oil,
permeate this gift of bread and wine
allowing us to experience now the body and blood of Christ
and a love for all the world.

Act of Praise, Fragrant Oil,
permeate the gift of our lives,
our devotion, our worship, our discipleship
allowing the world to experience now, your church

the body and bride of Christ
and a love for all the world.

Act of Praise, Fragrant Oil
permeate: Spedden, Antioch, and Beckwith of the Choptank Charge
with your presence.

May the fragrant oil of their devotion to you
be evident to the community around them.

May their sacrifice of praise ring true in their hearts
allowing them to dwell in your holy presence.

May all they do and say cause the world around them to rejoice,

**All: We bow humbly with this prayer,
seeking only to glorify the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
may the Holy Trinity feel honored, worshiped and adored by the lives we lead,
not just today and tomorrow, but always. Amen.**

One: Now lets pray the prayer Jesus taught us to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our dail bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

**All: With gratitude in our hearts, we appreciate that you have allowed us the honor of
taking part in this holy mystery. We praise you. We honor you. We bow down
before you. Now we ask for your anointing to be upon us as you send us out to
minister to others. May the lives we touch add to our praise. May their gratitude
be added to ours as we continue to praise you as we go our separate ways. Amen.**