

Holy Communion Service
for Epiphany

INVITATION

Everyone is invited to experience the epiphany at the Lord's table.
All who are curious, come.
All who are hungry, come.
All who are troubled, come.
All who feel a need, come.
All who are angry, come.
All who are open, come.
All who question, come.
All who feel rejected, come.
Everyone, without acception, come to the table of our Lord.

CONFESSION

**We know that we have sinned.
If we claim to be sinless, we would be liars.
We know that You desire that we pursue restorative justice.
However we have been unjust, personally and as a society.
You want us to be eager to show others mercy.
However we have sought to justify our vengeance, and violence before Your eyes.
You want us to live humbly in Your presence.
Yet we have in our pride, judged others as ignorant
and have not listened to Your instructions to us through them.
You have asked us love everybody,
but to our shame we have chosen to love only those of our choosing.
Forgive us. Renew a right attitude within us.
Open before us the way of peace revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PRAYER OF PARDON

Compassion, Love, Mercy it is Your desire for us to learn Your ways.
Help us see our failures as opportunities to learn to walk according to Your ways.
Use our lives to bring healing to all whom we have harmed
by our actions, our words, our thoughts and even our dreams.
Cultivate in us spiritual qualities of patience, kindness, and gentleness
so that our lives might not cause You any more embarrassment but only joy.
We want to exercise better faithfulness and self-control
so that our lives might not cause others to stumble along the way.
We want to be like Christ, a reflection of You, bringing to the world
more love, joy and peace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Listen to these words of grace:

The world is so loved

Love was expressed through Jesus
To all who believe

They will not perish
Because God wants to give all
An infinite life. (John 3:16)

Now if we confess
All of the sins we commit
God will be faithful

And God will be just
Forgiving and cleansing us
From unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

If anyone sins
Jesus is our advocate
With our holy God

Jesus the righteous
The expiation for sin
The sins of us all. (From 1 John 2:1-2)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We have seen the star.
God has led us to this place at this time.
We have heard the angelic choir.
They have urged us to come and see.
This epiphany has filled our hearts with a great joy.
We want to dance and sing and praise the Holy Name!

Like Moses our faces shine because we have come into Your holy presence.
Our lives reflect the very glory we have experienced,
because of all You have revealed to us.
We are so overwhelmed!
There is so much to experience!
There are so many fresh ideas to learn!
You keep revealing more and more of Yourself
and the expanse of Your redeeming love.
Who is left untouched by Your prevenient grace?
No one can hide from Your merciful presence.
You have chosen to remove all the barriers between us.
You have removed the dividing walls between us.
You have released all the prisoners in hell and led them all to freedom in Christ.
Your sign of redemption was the most brilliant star in the sky leading all to Jesus.

If any try to flee, You choose to stick with them,
refusing to lose even one in bondage to sin and death.

Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
with people of every ethnicity, age and station,
with every animal, every insect, every amphibian, bird, reptile and fish,
with every tree, every flower, bacteria and virus,
together we join to proclaim the greatness of Your holy name:

Sing Alleluia!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
And in all the heights!

Praise, all you angels!
Also praise now, all you hosts!
Praise too, sun and moon!

Praise, all shining stars!
Highest heavens fill with praise!
Dance all you rain drops! (Psalms148:1-4)

Praise from all the earth,
Creatures from the ocean depths,
Fire, hail, snow and mist.

Praise with stormy winds,
Also mountains and the hills.
Fruit trees and cedars,

Beasts, both wild and tame;
Reptiles and all flying birds;
and all earth's people. (Psalms148:7-11)

You shared with us the epiphany of Yourself in Jesus Christ.
You displayed Your compassion on the hungry,
when Jesus did not send them away empty.
You revealed Your mercy on all those who are troubled in heart,
when Jesus cast out all the demons who afflicted Your children.
Your grace shown brightest when Jesus was sacrificed upon a cross,
as Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of all those who wronged him,
and invited a sinner to join him in paradise.
You revealed to us hope when on the darkest of days,
Jesus revealed that life is stronger than death,
and that your grace overcomes every sin.

Jesus was in the world,

the world that came into being through him,
yet the world did not even recognize him,
so as an epiphany
Jesus took the bread of Passover,
gave thanks and shared the bread revealing:
“Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for you.”

Jesus came to his own
and his own people did not accept him,
so as an epiphany
Jesus took a cup of Passover wine,
gave thanks and shared the cup revealing:
“Drink all of this, for this is the cup of my blood
given as a tribute to God’s eternal covenant,
shed for you and for everyone bringing the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it as an epiphany of me.”

**Epiphany of Mercy,
we humbly ask You to receive our praise and thanksgiving,
and grant us the benefit of a richer experience
of the depth of Your love found in death of Jesus Christ,
Your lack of retribution,
and Your acceptance of Christ’s final cry for our forgiveness from the cross.**

**Epiphany of Compassion,
we humbly offer to you, ourselves, our eternal souls, and mortal bodies,
as a reasonable expectation of one who would follow You in service to the world.
Reveal to us a glimpse of Your presence and grace during this holy communion with You
and surround us with a knowledge of Your peace.**

**Epiphany of Grace,
we know that we are unworthy to serve in Your company,
because of our many failings, and the harm we have done to those You love,
but we ask You to give us a chance
teach us through our mistakes,
nurture our devotion,
until we gain the stature and likeness of Christ.
For You have revealed to us
that this is possible only through Christ, because of Christ and with Christ,
in unity with the empowerment provided by Your Holy Spirit
with all honor and glory belonging only to You, eternally present, Holy Love, Sacred Light.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We are like wild olive branches grafted onto the tree of life by grace.

**We were nobody, and only You recognized that we could become somebody,
even Your beloved children.**

It is only by Your invitation that we have a place at this Your table.

It is only by the blood of the lamb that we have been washed clean.

You have brought us to this place,

You have taken a burning coal from Your altar and touch our unclean lips.

You have called us by name.

Now reveal to us Jesus as we partake of this sacrament,

we want to follow Christ,

we want to live a new life in Christ,

we want to reveal Christ to the world

as we forever dwell in Christ, with Christ and become one with You. Amen.

O lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us Your peace.

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The body of Christ given for everyone,
bringing salvation to you all: body, mind, soul and spirit.

Take and eat knowing that Christ died,
Christ lives, and that Christ comes again in you.

The blood of Christ shed for everyone,
bringing salvation to you all: body, mind, soul, and spirit.

Drink this knowing the Christ died,
Christ lives, and that Christ comes again in you.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING:

May the epiphany of God surprise you,
and fill your entire being with awe.

May the epiphany of God comfort you,
bringing comfort to your soul.

May the epiphany of God enlighten you,
so you know that you are never alone,

but in the presence of Divine Love,

The greatest expression of that Love,

and are filled with this Love today and always. Amen.