

(Means of Grace)

Invitation:

One: Come and use all the means of grace. Gather as a community faith enjoying the very presence of Christ. Feed upon the word of God and find nourishment for your soul. Enter into this time of prayer and allow God to speak to your heart. Come and accept Jesus into your life as you feast upon this sacrament.

Confession:

All: We confess that we have fasted instead of feasting upon God's grace. Not only have we chosen to partake sparingly, but we have denied access to your grace from others. We have taken Your grace for granted in all of its rich abundance. We have claimed it for ourselves, but seen others as unworthy. We have even made excuses as to why denying ourselves and others the benefits of your grace was for the common good. We all need your grace. We need it often by every means, and so does the world around us. Open our hearts to receive and our lives to share your irreplaceable grace. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: God's grace is offered always without price, in an abundant supply to everyone. By grace you have been saved through faith. Rejoice! You are forgiven!

All: God's grace is offered always without price, in an abundant supply to everyone. By grace you have been saved through faith. Rejoice! You are forgiven! Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

One: This grace is never deserved.

All: This grace is a life altering gift.

One: This grace is an amazing treasure.

All: This grace is a pearl beyond price.

One: We could never afford the price,

All: So God paid the full price for us all!

One: Thank you.

Yet thank you does not feel enough for the debt we feel.

How can you repay an unpayable debt?

You require nothing.

Your grace is prevenient, given before we do anything.

Your grace is what justifies us, we need nothing else.

Your grace continually sanctifies us,

we could not stop its transforming power even if we wanted to.

Your grace is bringing us all from glory to glory.

It is more wonderful than we could have ever imagined or dreamed possible.

You have found a place for us, and invite us to join with you,
to become a means of grace in this world.

You want to use our lives to perfect this world through love.

How can we refuse, to join with so many on the earth and such a great multitude in heaven to bring you praise:

**All: Sing hallelujah!
Sing in the sanctuary!
Give praise in the sky!**

**Praise for might acts;
Praise for exceeding greatness.
Give praise with horn blasts;**

**Praise with harp and lyre.
Give praise with hand drum and dance;
With lute and the pipe.**

**Crash praise with cymbals;
Praise with loud clashing cymbals.
With all of our breath**

Hallelujah! (Psalm 150)

One: We do praise you, and are so thankful for all the grace you have poured out upon our lives through Jesus. Even though Jesus was fully divine, he divested himself to become fully human. He came as an instrument of your grace, showing us that it is better to serve than be served, that what you give is more important than what you receive, and that to him there was no difference between being Jewish or gentile, being a slave or being free, or even male or female. As an instrument of grace he did not return evil for evil, but responded to evil with good.

Seeking to be a means of grace,
Jesus left his seat of honor,
removed his outer garments,
and took up the towel and basin
to do the work of a slave.
His invitation to us is to follow him,
and become a means of grace to one another.

Seeking to be a means of grace,
Jesus took the unleavened bread
with prayers of thanksgiving.
After breaking the bread, Jesus shared it saying:
“Take a piece and eat, this is my body given and broken for you.”
His invitation to us is to follow him,

and become a means of grace to one another.

Seeking to be a means of grace,
Jesus took some wine with prayers of thanksgiving.
After pouring the wine, Jesus shared it saying:
“Take a sip, this is the cup of my blood which I willingly pour out
to honor God’s everlasting covenant,
guaranteeing not only the forgiveness of your sins,
but those of the whole world.
His invitation to us is to follow him,
and become a means of grace to one another.

We want to be a means of grace.
We want to help God transform our world.
So we embrace this holy mystery
and proclaim it to the world with our words and our lives:

**All: Christ’s death was a means of grace.
Christ’s resurrection is a means of grace.
Christ’s return will be a means of grace.**

One: Source of Grace, User of every means,
drench these gifts of bread and wine with Your presence
revealing the reality of Jesus’ body and blood to the world.

Source of Grace, User of every means,
drench the gift of our lives, what we do and what we say,
revealing the reality of your church,
the redeeming body and nurturing bride of Christ to the world.

Source of Grace, User of every means,
bless those in this class,
inspire the to be instruments of your grace,
set free their imaginations and creativity as they seek to be used of you,
open up to them opportunities to be your means of grace to others.

**All: We ask for this grace,
encouraged by the life of Jesus,
enlightened by the Holy Spirit,
enabled by the creator and lover of our soul,
whom we worship and adore, always. Amen.**

Now let us pray according to the pattern given to us by Jesus:
**All: God of Love, Source of all grace
who desires to save and sanctify every life.
We are blessed by your kindness.
You provide for our sustenance, and generosity.
You soften our hearts with your forgiveness,**

**enabling us to forgive those who have harmed us.
Your mercy strengthens our resolve
to stay tender and compassionate.
For you have made us a means of grace to bless the lives of many. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup:

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you for sharing with us holy mystery. We have banqueted together surrounded by your grace: the grace of community, the grace of Your Word, the grace of prayer, and the grace of this holy sacrament. We have been so deeply blessed that we desire to be sent out by You to share this grace with others. Use us now as a means of Your grace to bless others, giving them an touch of your hope and peace for their lives, so You might be praised by all. Amen.