

Holy Communion
(Second Sunday of Easter -Forgiveness)

Invitation:

One: All are invited to this feast of grace. Join us even if you feel you have committed the unforgivable. Draw near if you judge yourself unworthy. The past is gone, the future is not yet here, and now is the moment of salvation. You are personally invited to join Christ at this table.

Confession:

All: We have not always rushed to grant forgiveness to others. We have come up with endless reasons why they are not worthy of our consideration. Our hearts are hardened against them by our desire for revenge, for retribution, for them to pay for what they have done. Heal us Lord! Take away our rigid frozen hearts and replace them with a heart of flesh warmed by Your grace. We are blind to the pain and injury we have caused in the lives of others. Enlighten our souls to the evil sins we have committed mindlessly against others. Help us to forgive with the same grace You have shown us. Today we answer Your call to become Your instruments of forgiveness, nurturing peace in the world. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: While you were still sinners, Christ forgave you and paid the full price for your crimes. In the blessed name of Jesus, you are forgiven. Amen.

All: While you were still a sinner, Christ forgave you and paid the full price for your crimes. In the blessed name of Jesus, you too are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen!

Great Thanksgiving:

One: You are accepted by God.

All: God chooses us for Their own.

One: God has chosen to teach you a better way of living.

All: We are invited to learn the way of love.

One: God's ways are life changing!

All: God gives to us a peace the world cannot give, filling us with an abundance of joy!

One: This new life begins with Your forgiveness!
We are forgiven completely, with no strings attached.
Your dream is that forgiveness becomes contagious;
Your forgiveness causing us to forgive others too.
You are not a God of destruction,
instead, through forgiveness You are creating all things new.
The old hateful, destructive ways crumble to dust,
in their place You are planting restorative justice in our world,
creating a new garden of Eden springing with hope and fresh possibilities.

Your vision for us is amazing.

Your goodness takes our breath away.

Our hearts sing Your praises, and those around us are harmonizing with us.
As we look around the whole world is enveloped in a symphony of praise,
filling not only the earth but all of heaven with gratitude, as we proclaim:

**All: Amazing, spectacular, mind-blowing is Your grace!
It washes away every stain of sin.
It rebuilds all that evil has destroyed.
It allow us to try anew, to leave the pain behind,
and love everyone as we should.
Only Love, divine Love, holy Love makes this a reality.**

One: You are Love and Jesus makes Your loving presence come alive.
In Jesus all the dividing walls came crashing down.
We were all made into one body,
with each of us a part of the whole.
No one is left out.
All of us are being taught the way, the truth and the life.
And when we fail,
and we do,
all
the
time.
We are forgiven and given a chance to learn from our mistakes.
You recognize our ignorance.
You understand our urge to live in a ways that leads to destruction.
You forgive us, because You believe in us.
You believe we can become perfected in Your love.

Jesus thanked You for the chance to teach his disciples.
Without anger, Jesus got up from the table,
took a towel and basin,
washed feet to teach a basic lesson on how to love.
Remember we are forgiven.

At the meal Jesus thanked You for bread.
Breaking the bread, shared it with everyone, saying:
“Take and eat, this bread is my body, broken and given for you.”
Remember we are forgiven.

After the meal, Jesus gave thanks for wine.
Taking the cup, shared it with everyone, saying:
“Drink, all of you from this cup of my blood,
poured out in worship of the One whose eternal covenant,
forgives you and everyone in the world of their sins.
Remember we are forgiven.

We are forgiven and so is everyone else.
This is the good news that we want to share with the whole world.
This is the good news lived out by Christ through this holy mystery,
we joyfully proclaim:

**All: Jesus forgave us when he died.
Jesus forgave us when he arose.
Jesus will forgive us when he comes again.**

One: Forgiveness, Redemption, Salvation
anoint these gifts of bread and wine
allowing them to become for us the body and blood of Christ
removing all our sins.

Forgiveness, Redemption, Salvation
anoint the gift of our lives, forgiven and free,
allowing them to become for the world, Your church,
the forgiving body and grateful bride of Christ
removing all our sins.

**All: Forgiveness, Redemption, Salvation
anoint the Choptank United Methodist Charge
make us pure and holy;
empower us to forgive, turning the other cheek and going the extra mile.
Use this prayer to grant forgiveness to our enemies
for the glorification of the Holy Trinity,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
for the transformation of the world, starting with us. Amen.**

One: Now as the forgiven people of the earth, let us pray as Jesus taught saying:

**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 daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
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:

We rejoice in Your sharing with us this holy mystery in Jesus Christ. You have given us assurance of our full salvation. You have cleansed us of all our unrighteousness. Although our sins have been many, You have shown us great mercy and forgiven them all. Now send us out so that we might share this good news, for this grace has not just been for us, but for all. There are so many who still do not realize that they are forgiven. Use us and our forgiveness of others to help them understand, that in the name of Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Amen.