

Holy Communion  
(Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost - Tasted Death)

Invitation:

One: You have a place at this table, and Christ cordially invites you to come. If you have experienced sorrows or hold grief in your heart, Christ wants to wipe your tears away. He has tasted death and resurrection. He knows both sorrow and joy. We have nothing to fear, Christ is with us. Now is the time to feast upon his grace.

Confession:

**All: We freely admit that we are afraid of the mystery of death. We do not want death to touch our lives nor the lives of those we love. We don't want to feel sorrow. We don't want to have tears form in our eyes. We would rather be like Jesus, who embraced death as just another aspect of mortal life. To Jesus, death was a welcomed friend, and not some horrible enemy. Death is but the beginning stage of resurrection and new life. Death is a chance for God to make all things new. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

One: Everything is used for good in accordance with the divine purpose. Learn from your mistakes, missteps, and misunderstandings, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

**All: Everything is used for good in accordance with the divine purpose. Learn from your mistakes, missteps, and misunderstandings, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven. Receive the good news. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving:

One: God uses everything creatively for good.

**All: All my pains, all my sorrows, all my worries, even my misfortunes.**

One: Our God is imaginative and able to do more than we have ever dreamed possible.

**All: The old will eventually pass away, but God is already making all things new.**

One: This is the source of our resurrection joy;

**All: Even from death new life will grow! Hallelujah! Glory to God!**

One: For You death is normal.

To You everything is, was, and is yet to be.

Death is but a moment in life, just like birth.

In one instant we are saying hello and the other we are saying goodbye.

But for You there is only hello.

For whether we live or whether we die, we are still in Your presence.

You never leave us, nor forsake us.

Even in death we are not separated from You.

You are our connection throughout every generation.

Everything living lifts up their voices to thank You.

Everyone in the world, thanks You.

All of heaven joins with us to thank You and proclaim:

**All: Death is swallowed up!**

**Death's stings been taken away!  
The pain of our sins.**

**Enforced by the law.  
We thank God for victory  
Through our Lord Jesus.** (1 Corinthians 15:54b-57)

One: Christ is our victory over sin and death:  
Returning the breath of life to the son of the widow from Nain,  
And calling forth a friend, Lazarus, from the tomb.  
Jesus demonstrated with his own life  
that death was not to be feared,  
that death was not the end,  
being like a seed planted in the ground full of life.  
In Christ we have this living hope,  
powered by the reality of the resurrection of the dead.

Knowing he would soon taste death,  
Jesus had one more lesson to teach.  
Taking off his outer robe,  
he gathered up the towel and basin  
to show his disciples that nothing was  
more important in life than hospitality,  
Jesus personally stooped down to wash their feet.  
How could we ever forget this?

Knowing he would soon taste death,  
Jesus took the Passover bread with a prayer of thanksgiving.  
Breaking the bread, he shared it with all the men and women there, saying:  
“Please eat, this is my body broken and shared with you.”  
How could we ever forget this?

Knowing he would soon taste death,  
Jesus took the Passover wine with a prayer of thanksgiving.  
Pouring the wine, he shared it with all the men and women there, saying:  
“Please drink, this is the cup of my blood,  
a willing sacrifice poured out to honor the eternal covenant God has made with us,  
forgiving not only your sins but all the sins of the world.”  
How could we ever forget this?

We do remember  
and when it is our time to taste death,  
we will be encouraged by the holy mystery we declare:  
**All: Christ tasted death.  
Christ tasted resurrection.  
Christ has even more life to experience.**

One: First Breath, Last Breath  
breath afresh upon this bread and wine  
revive for us the body and blood of Christ  
a source of revival and renewal in the world.

First Breath, Last Breath  
breath afresh upon our lives  
revive for the world, Your church  
the lively body and bride of Christ  
a source of revival and renewal in the world.

First Breath, Last breath  
breath afresh upon the Choptank United Methodist Charge  
be a source of revival and renewal to their souls.  
Guide them as they share good news to their friends and neighbors.  
Use them to bring hope to those who grieve and comfort to all who struggle.

**All: We pray in the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life.  
We pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, our hope and joy.  
We pray by the inspiration of our Creator who is making all things new.  
May they receive the honor and the glory due their name, now and always. Amen.**

One: Now let us pray according to the teaching of Jesus:

**All: God of Life, eternal, everlasting life, in heaven and on earth,  
Our abundant life, joyful life, and blessed life.  
Everyday you provide enough for all of us.  
You mercifully forgive us all our sins,  
just as we show mercy and forgive all others.  
Your wisdom guides us,  
Your restorative justice gives us hope.  
For You have overcome death, the world and sin by Your grace. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

**All: We thank you, for sharing with us these moments of holy mystery. We may never understand it all, but we understand enough. We understand that You love us. We understand that death has no hold on us. We know that we have a future because of Your grace. So now send us out to share this good news with others. These gifts are not for us alone, but for our families, our neighbors, and strangers too. May they all experience the abundance of Your gifts of life. Amen.**