

Holy Communion
(Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost: Worship)

Invitation:

One: At this table we find that God is present. The one God that all of heaven adores. The One before whom every knee shall bow and every tongue confess. The God who is worshiped in every language, in every culture, during every age, in every nation on earth. It is this God, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who invites you into fellowship around this table. Come boldly before your God.

Confession:

One: If anyone is holding ill will against us, God commands us to go and make it right.

All: We confess that we have not gone, we have not made things right.

One: If we see our enemy in need, God commands us to go and meet those needs.

All: We confess that we have watched our enemies suffer and have rejoiced.

One: If anyone sins against us, God commands us to forgive them and let our resentment go.

All: We confess that we are still holding tight to our grudges and still dream of vengeance.

One: God reveals to us that whatever aid we do not extend to those in need, we have forced God to go without.

All: We confess that there have been times when we have left the God we love without the basic necessities of life, and not felt a thing about it.

One: God have mercy. Christ have mercy.

All: God have mercy upon me a sinner. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: An awareness of God's presence is the beginning of wisdom. You are forgiven only because Christ has interceded for you. By the prayers of Jesus Christ upon the cross, you are forgiven.

All: An awareness of God's presence is the beginning of wisdom. You are forgiven only because Christ has interceded for you. By the prayers of Jesus Christ upon the cross you too are forgiven. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

One: Receive our worship, our adoration, and praise.

All: Receive our repentance, our intercessions, and hymns.

One: Accept our dancing, our drumming, and our shouts of glory.

All: Accept our stillness, our quiet, and the silence of our hearts.

One: You deserve our honor, our undivided attention.

All: You deserve our sacrifices, our devotion, our very lives.

One: There is no one more important to us than You.
We cherish Your relationship with us,
and the privilege of being able to claim that You are our God.
We know that we are not the only ones to worship You.
We know we have not been the only ones You have revealed yourself.

When we worship we join with others all over the world,
and who knows, maybe with those through out the universe living in galaxies far away.
You are worshiped in many ways, in many languages,
through countless rituals.

You are known by many names.

You are known through countless stories, myths and legends.

Your ways of compassion, mercy, forgiveness,
and kindness have been taught to every generation.

We stand amazed.

Your worship stirs our souls and inspires in us acts of grace.

Your worship is endless on earth and in heaven,
the whole universe sings together:

**All: Perfect, lovely, so merciful is the Divine:
Mysterious, magnificent, awesome and holy;
Inspiring, creative, helpful, and caring
is the One God we will adore forever.**

One: As Christians, we have the blessing of knowing You in Jesus,
our Immanuel, God with us.

We know Christ worshiped You in the temple,
followed the traditions and rituals of his family.

Jesus worshiped You with offerings and sacrifices,
and by often praying to You all through the night.

On the cross Jesus worshiped You by reciting the Psalter.

May we do the same.

When Jesus' friends and their families gathered to celebrate Passover
it was Jesus who welcomed his guests
by personally taking up the towel and basin to wash their feet.
Showing hospitality was a sacred task,
demonstrating God's provision for all.

As an act of worship, Jesus led his guests through the Passover rituals.
Reciting the ancient prayers of thanksgiving, Jesus took the bread.
This unleavened bread was used to commemorate the escape from Egypt.
Breaking the bread, Jesus shared it with all of his guests, saying:
"Take and eat, this bread is my body broken and given for you."
We join with Christ in this act of worship.

As an act of worship, Jesus led his guests through the Passover rituals.
Reciting the ancient prayers of thanksgiving, Jesus took the wine.
This wine was used at Passover to to commemorate God's determination to deliver.
Pouring the wine, Jesus shared it with all of his guests, saying:
"Take and drink, this cup is my blood poured out
in honor of God's eternal covenant of grace, forgiving all of our sins."
We join with Christ in this act of worship.

In worship we express our gratitude
for all the blessing that are ours because of Jesus Christ.
These blessings flow from the mystery of faith we now declare:

**ALL: As an act of devotion, Jesus died.
As an act of proclamation, Jesus arose.
As an act of celebration, Jesus will come again.**

One: Melody, Rhythm, Movement, Word
Use the gift of this bread and wine
to help us worship in the presence of the body and blood of Christ.

Melody, Rhythm, Movement, Word
use the gift of our acts of piety and charity
to help the world worship in the presence of Your church,
the sacred body and holy bride of Christ.

Melody, Rhythm, Movement, Word
use the gift of the Choptank Charge of the United Methodist Church
to draw their communities into a fuller worship of You.
May their acts of generosity and kindness bring You prayers of thanksgiving.
May their acts of discipleship demonstrate the life changing power of Your Word.
May their humility encourage others to join them as they kneel before Your altars.

**All: We lift these prayers before Jesus in gratitude for our salvation.
We lift our prayers before the Holy Spirit in thanksgiving for all our blessings.
We lift up our voices to join in the praise of our Creator around his throne,
wanting our world to join with us in giving God all our glory, honor and praise.
Amen.**

One: Now let us join in praying together following the plan given to us by Jesus:

**All: You are worthy to receive all the praise, in heaven and on earth,
by all those who walk, fly and swim upon the earth.
May You be worshiped always, everywhere, by everyone.
Thank You for giving us our daily bread.
We praise You for forgiving all of our sins,
and for enabling us to forgive the sins committed against us.
Thank You for Your guidance,
keeping us from every temptation and evil.
We worship You, we bow down before You, and will praise Your name, forever.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

**All: Thank you for touching our lives with this sacred mystery found in the life of Jesus.
It causes our lips to sing Your praises. We fall on our knees and thank You for the
gift of our salvation, and the precious sacrifice of Your son. Now send us out to
invite others: to join us; to expand Your choir; to join us in our mission to**

**transform the world with Your grace. We want fill the whole world with your
worship and song. Amen.**