

## ***The Acknowledgement of Togetherness***

As we gather here today in the sight of God to join in Holy Communion, know that the God of all creation is not beholden to the bounds of time or place.

God transcends our physical distances and parts the veil between us, so that we may be together in this space.

Through God and the mystery of Holy Communion, we become one creation, one body, one church.

Join with me now in acknowledging our togetherness.

## ***Virtual Passing of the Peace***

[Virtual Passing of the Peace: have say hi to one another in the chat]

God's peace be with us all. Amen.

## ***Opening Prayer***

Repeat after me:

Merciful God

we your church confess

that too often our spirit

has not been that of Christ.

Where we have failed to love one another as you first love us,  
where we have pledged loyalty to Christ with our lips,  
but denied him in our lives,  
have mercy on us.

By your Spirit,  
make us faithful to your great love.

Amen.

### ***Scripture Reading - John 13:1-17, 34-35***

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later." "No!" Peter said. "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't have a place with me."

Simon Peter said, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!" Jesus responded, "Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you." He knew who would betray him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you is clean." After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them..." I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

## ***Sermon***

### ***The Gathering of the Elements***

Together, while at many tables we recognize the table that unites us, for at Christ's table everyone is welcome. We are united in this meal just as our hearts are united with the grace of God. May this holy mystery keep our hearts and minds in the wisdom and love of Jesus Christ.

## ***Virtual Sharing of the Elements***

[Share with one another in the comments a favorite recipe, a link to what you are eating tonight, maybe comment with a picture of your table]

The table is set. God is with us. May we give thanks.

## ***Thanksgiving***

God is with you.

## **And also with you.**

It is good to be joyful as we give thanks to You, Holy God.

You created us in your image and gave us life with your breath and spirit.

Your love does not falter, even as we neglect that love.

You liberated us from our bondage, and continue to ease our burden.

With joy, and with all of Creation, we proclaim:

Repeat after me:

Holy, Holy, Holy

God of Power and Grace

Heaven and Earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

You are Holy God, and blessed is your Child Jesus  
Your Spirit descended upon him so that he could  
proclaim good news to the poor  
heal the sick  
feed the hungry  
and liberate the captive  
His life gave birth to the church through a new covenant  
one born out the Holy Spirit  
whose power dwells within us today.

On the night in which he gave himself over, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, God, and said, "take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After dinner, he took the cup, gave thanks, and said, "This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many. Drink from it in remembrance of me."

In remembering the mighty acts of Jesus, we offer ourselves as a living witness proclaiming the mystery of faith:

Repeat after me:

Christ has died

Christ has risen

Christ will come again

Pour out your Spirit on all those gathered together in this Holy space,  
and on the gift of these elements

Make them be for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ,  
that we may be the body of Christ for the world

Your Spirit makes us one with Christ and one with each other  
as we minister to the world, as one beloved community of faith  
singing your praises on Earth and in Heaven

until Christ comes again,  
and we feast at the divine table  
in perfect harmony

### ***Virtual Intercession***

[Virtual Intercession: not everyone who needs grace can be with us here,  
today. Name those you'd like to extend the grace of this table to, in chat,  
or voice them to yourself]

All honor and glory are yours God, now and forever. You know the prayers we have commented, the prayers we have voiced aloud, the prayers we cannot yet name in our hearts. Together, we unite our voices in the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

Lord's Prayer (Optional)

Repeat after me:

Our God,

who are in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

one earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those 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.

### ***Partaking of the Elements***

This bread is made from many grains from many fields, yet was formed into a single loaf.

Because there is one God,  
we, though many, and in many places, are one body.

Join us as we partake in the body of Christ, in remembrance of him.

The Body of Christ given for you

This fruit of the vine is made by many hands, from many places, yet pours freely.

Join us as we share in this blessing of the cup of the new covenant.

The cup of blessing poured out for you and for all

### ***Benediction***

Eternal God, thank you for this mystery of faith, where you have given yourself to us. May we go into the world strengthened by your Spirit, in a spirit of generosity, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ***Questions for further consideration***

What does it mean for Jesus to share this meal and wash the feet of all the disciples, knowing that they would betray and deny him?

Jesus says that we should love one another just as he loves us. What does that love look like? What does that love accept? What does this love find unacceptable?

In a time of social distancing, we can't wash people's feet, let alone get six feet close to one another. Foot washing was an act of humble service. What could humble service look like for you in this moment?

### ***Questions for Children***

How does it feel when someone helps you do something that you can't do yourself?

Could you imagine your preschool teacher, school principal, or parents washing your feet? Washing feet was doing something nice for one another, to keep their homes clean and healthy. Would you wash the feet of your preschool teacher, school principal, or parents? What's something nice that you can do for one another?

What are the favorite meals that your kids have shared with family or friends? What made those meals special?