



# Holy Communion

## Pattern for Worship

In the principal service of Christian worship, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace—the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.

The basic pattern of this service—gathering, word, meal, sending—is a structure that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common. The whole people of God are joined by the same gifts of grace, for the sake of the same mission of the gospel, into the life of the one triune God.

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Confession and Forgiveness

**OR**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

*On the day of Christ's resurrection, and at other times, God gathers us in Christian assembly. We confess our sin and hear God's word of forgiveness. We give thanks for God's mercy in the gift of baptism.*

Gathering Song

Hymn or Psalm

Kyrie

Canticle of Praise

*Singing at the gathering may include hymns old and new; a prayer for God's mercy to fill the church and the world; a canticle of praise to God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ.*

**Greeting**

**Prayer of the Day**

*During the gathering, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the name of the triune God. The presiding minister gathers the assembly into prayer.*

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading**

**Psalm**

**Second Reading**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel**

**Sermon**

*The word of God is proclaimed within and by the gathered assembly. The first Bible reading, usually from the Old Testament, is followed by a psalm sung in response. The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church. We acclaim the living Word, Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading. Preaching brings God's word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.*

**Hymn of the Day**

Creed

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Peace**

*God's word is further proclaimed as we sing and as we confess our faith with the whole church. After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace.*

*Central elements of the liturgy are noted in bold type; other elements support the essential shape of Christian worship.*

# Meal

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

## **Offering**

### **Setting the Table**

Offering Prayer

*A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. The table is set with bread and wine.*

## **Great Thanksgiving**

### **Dialogue and Preface**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

*Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving. With the whole creation, we join the angels' song.*

### **Thanksgiving at the Table with Words of Institution**

**OR**

### **Words of Institution**

*The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise at the table. A full thanksgiving also includes praise to God for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The thanksgiving concludes with the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us.*

### **Lord's Prayer**

## **Communion**

Communion Song

Prayer after Communion

*In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission. We sing as the bread is broken and as the meal is shared. We ask God to send us in witness to the world.*

# Sending

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

Sending of Communion

## **Blessing**

Sending Song

Dismissal

*God's mission includes the gifts of grace that we share in worship and take also to the absent; now, we are sent to continue our participation in God's mission. With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.*