

# Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Word and Table III ♦ Communion of the Saints

Adapted From: *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

**God of Abraham and Sarah,  
God of Miriam and Moses,  
God of Joshua and Deborah,  
God of Ruth and David,  
God of the priests and the prophets,  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
God of Paul the Apostle and Stephen the Martyr,  
God of our mothers and fathers,  
God of our children to all generations.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

**Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those whom we name before you now with our lips and in the silence of our hearts.

[The congregation is invited to speak names aloud]

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast, with all God's saints, at the heavenly banquet.

**By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, all Honor and Glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our savior Christ has taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Because there is one loaf we, though we are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break, it is a means of sharing in the body of Christ.

And the cup over which we give thanks, it is a means of sharing in the outpoured blood of Christ.