



June 8, 2008

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Communion Hymn:**

477 *I Come With Joy*

Invitation

Because there is one bread,
we who are many are one body,
 for we all partake of the one bread.

In Christ, God breaks down the walls
that make us strangers to ourselves,
and divide us from one another.

We are the body of Christ.

At this table we bear witness to our faith.

At this table,

**God brings wholeness out of brokenness,
 and healing to our world.**

Let us break bread together.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

You saw the well-laid plans chaos had devised,
Faithful Worker, and laughed out loud,
the heavens bursting forth
with each great guffaw,
the stars spilling into places
with each breath of joy.

Filling the earth with that love which never ends,

**you created us so we might live
in your garden of grace.**

But we reached out to grasp
the garment of sin,
letting it drag us through the mud of despair and death.

**Even then, you sent those
who spoke in your name
to remind us of the promises made so long ago.**

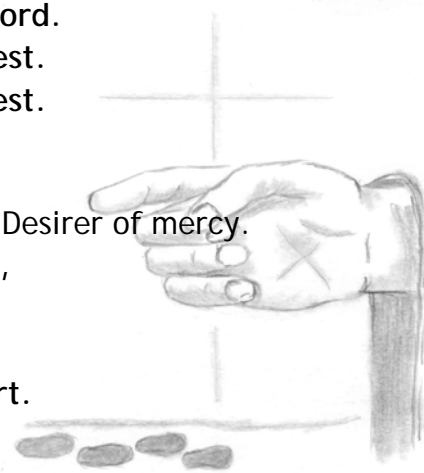
When we continued to cling to trying to save ourselves,
you sent Jesus to us,
knowing his faith in you would never weaken.
So, knowing praise is the only response
we can make to such love,
we join our voices in this place and moment
with those in every time and place
who forever sing your joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, God of Grace,
and blessed in Jesus Christ, Desirer of mercy.

**He walked among us,
calling us to follow
that we might know
the way to your heart.**

Sitting with the outsiders,
he fed them with that love



which welcomed and embraced them
as sisters and brothers.

**Following your hopes
he went into the grave
where death was waiting,
so he might take us by the hand and lead us
into life forever with you.**

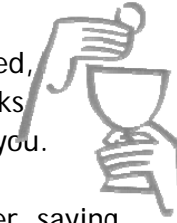
As we remember your ancient promises
fulfilled in the One who will never die,
we would speak of that faith
which is ours:

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

Pour out your Spirit upon these simple,
yet so very precious, gifts of the bread and of the cup.
By your grace,
when we would sanitize our hands with piety,
the bread transforms us
so we would reach out
to the untouchables of our time.
By your compassion,
when we would sit at home,
at ease, in comfort, with plenty,
the cup alters our attitude
so we will get up and follow Jesus
into the brokenness of our world.
Now as we gather at your Table,
with Abraham and Sarah, the prophets and psalmists,
Paul and others, we join our voices together
in the words that Jesus taught us,
saying: **The Lord's Prayer**

Breaking the Bread, Filling the Cup:

The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."



In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Distribution of the Elements:

The minister serves the servers; together, they serve the people of the congregation; ushers will assist you to the front.

An appropriate response to the words "Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life" and "Jesus Christ, the True Vine" is "Amen" or "Thanks be to God".

Prayer after Communion: (Together)

For the bread we have eaten,
for the wine we have tasted,
for the life we have received,
we thank you God.

Grant that what we have done
and have been given here,
may so put its mark on us,
that it may remain always in our hearts.

Grant that we may grow in Christian love
and understanding, and that ours may be lives
of faithful action, in Christ's name. Amen.

Following the prayer, the service resumes as normal in the bulletin.



This service of communion booklet is intended as a guide to help the congregation participate more fully in the Sacrament of Communion.