

# **Communion for The People of God**

#### <u>Invitation</u>

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.

#### **Thanksgiving**

Loving God, Source of all, we thank and praise you with our lips and with our lives, that, having created us and all things through your Word, you welcome our prayer and praise.

For the goodness of creation and the glory of redemption, we praise you. For the law of holiness, inviting our obedience, and the call of prophets, rebuking our disobedience, we praise you. Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving:

Holy, holy God, power of life and love! Heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna through the ages!

Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth! Loving God, Holy One, we offer you praise and thanksgiving over this bread and cup, because in Jesus Christ, your only Son, you have joined yourself forever to us, uniting heaven and earth.

#### Remembering

On the eve of his betrayal, Jesus renewed God's covenant promise. He took bread, offered the blessing, broke it, and gave it to those who sat at table with him. Then, at the close of the meal, he poured the cup of blessing, raised it in thanks to God, and passed it among them.

## **Affirmation of Memory and Hope**

We remember Jesus' integrity unto death.
We remember the Easter hope of resurrection.
We remember the promise of compassion and justice.

#### **Words of Transformation**

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that in word and deed, we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world.

#### **Prayer for the Community**

Help us to love as Christ loved. Knowing our own weakness, may we stand with all who stumble. Sharing in his suffering, may we remember all who suffer. Held in his love, may we embrace all whom the world denies. Rejoicing in his forgiveness, may we forgive all who trespass against us.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

With Jesus, we pray together, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **Fraction and Distribution**

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Come, for all things are now ready.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving.

May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

<sup>\*</sup> Celebrate God's Presence, A Book of Services.