



A SHORTER CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION in ASHBURY

2nd Thursday of the month at 10am

Opening sentences

As if this were the only time, and this the only place, and we the only people,

Jesus Christ will meet us.

As if this were the only time, and this the only place, and we the only people,

let us worship God.

Prayer of confession

In a moment of silence, let us remember our own faults and failings as we confess our sins to one another and to God.

In the community of Christ's Church and in the presence of all God's people, I confess to God that I have sinned in thought, word and deed. I have not loved God, cared for God's world or respected God's people as I should.

I own my responsibility and pray for God's pardon.

May God forgive you, Christ befriend you and the Spirit renew and change your life.

Amen

In the community of Christ's Church and in the presence of all God's people, we confess to God that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved God, cared for God's world or respected God's people as we should.

We own our responsibility and pray for God's pardon.

May God forgive you, Christ befriend you and the Spirit renew and change your life.

Amen

Prayer

You found out what we were doing and you intervened. "Come and do it together, come and do it with me," you said.

So thank you, Lord, for intervening in our private lives

You promised us nothing by way of success, recognition, possessions or reward. "These things will come at the right time when you walk with me," you said.

So thank you, Lord, for promising us nothing

You gave us no resources apart from ourselves - hands meant for caring, lips meant for praising, hearts made for loving - and the Holy Spirit to make us restless until we change.

So thank you, Lord, for the essential gifts

Then just when we think we've got it right as to where we should go and what we should do; just when we're ready to take on the world, you come, like a beggar, to our back door saying, "This is the way. I am the way." And offering us bread and wine.

So thank you, Lord, for coming again and keeping your word, and showing us you care for us and for all people. Amen

The Word of God

The Gospel of the Day *is read*

Invitation

This is the table, not of the Church but of the Lord. It is to be made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because it is I who invite you: it is our Lord. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

The story

The priest prepares the elements as the story is read out

Now let us hear the story of how this sacrament began:

On the night on which Jesus was betrayed, he sat at supper with his disciples. While they were eating, he took a piece of bread, said a blessing, broke it and gave it to them with the words "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me."

Later, he took a cup of wine, saying, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Drink from it, all of you, to remember me."

So now, following Jesus' example and command, we take this bread and this wine, the ordinary things of the world which Christ will make special. And as he said a prayer before sharing let us do so too.

Prayers of Intercession

As we approach sharing Communion with our Lord, let us express our gratitude to God for what is important to us at this time, whether that be ordinary or special.

Let us give thanks

For this time and this place and those around us, thank you, God

Thank you, God

For our freedom to worship and name you, thank you,
God

Thank you, God

And ...

So now, in gratitude, we join our voices to those of the church on earth and in heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, as we come to share the richness of your table, we cannot forget the rawness of the earth.

We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. Your world is one world and we are stewards of its nourishment.

Lord, put our prosperity at the service of the poor.

We cannot take wine and forget those who are thirsty. The ground and the rootless, the earth and its weary people cry out for justice.

Lord, put our fullness at the service of the empty.

We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war or, if not at war, then preparing for it.

Show us quickly, Lord, how to turn weapons into welcome signs and the lust for power into a desire for peace.

We cannot celebrate the feast of your family and forget our divisions. We are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still dismember us.

Lord, heal your church in every brokenness.

Prayer of consecration

For us you were born, for us you healed, preached, taught and showed the way to heaven; for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again.

Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, for all that you have done and all that you have promised, what have we to offer?

Our hands are empty, our hearts are sometimes full of wrong things. We are not fit to gather up the crumbs from under your table. But with you is mercy and the power to change us.

So as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine that they may become for us your body, healing, forgiving and making us whole; and that we may become for you, your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes.

Amen

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, "This is my body, it is broken for you."

And later he took the cup of wine and said, "This is the new relationship with God, made possible because of my death. Take this – all of you- to remember me."

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

Look, here is your Lord coming to you in bread and wine. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

The bread and wine are shared

The Peace

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a half-hearted peace, but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us now. Let us share it with each other.

Concluding prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives in yours.

Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you.

Amen

Closing responses

The cross
we shall take it

The bread
we shall break it

The pain
we shall bear it

The joy
we shall share it

The Gospel
we shall live it

The love
we shall give it

The light
we shall cherish it

The darkness
God shall perish it

Thanks be to God

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