

Communion For Easter

Prayer after Communion

**We pray for God, who loves us,
to send the Holy Spirit upon all of us and what we do at this
table, so that we, who have shared in the life of Jesus,
and being filled with the Spirit,
may become what we receive: the Body of Christ;
messengers of new life and hope for each other and for the
whole world.
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy One,

On this joyful Easter day,

we offer you our gratitude and praise with hearts full of love,

for we have seen your grace and power,

rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair,

bursting from the tomb in the gift of new life.

And so we join our voices with all your creatures high and low,

with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on

earth, to celebrate your resurrecting power:

**Holy, Holy, Holy are you, God of power and might; heaven and
earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed
is the one who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest! (VU 932)**

The Story of the Table/Words of Institution

When we gather at this table, we remember how this meal
began, how it has promised hope and new life to Jesus' friends
from one generation to the next.

Often, when we gather,

we remember bread and wine shared around a table

the night Jesus was arrested.

Today we remember the first Easter day,

when Jesus appeared to friends along a road.

But they were too sad and tired to recognize him.

So he came to the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened, *then* they recognized him.

As we break this bread and share this cup
in the name of our Risen Lord, may our eyes be opened to
recognize Jesus, present with us here.
May our spirits be refreshed to face our future in hope.
And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth,
Let us also bless God for what we are about receive

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ.
Your resurrection promises that there are new possibilities
for us and our weary world.
Even when we falter in discouragement,
even if we hesitate at the news
that your great love has come back to embrace us,
you will not let us go.
You call us by name to assure us of your love.
You open your arms to welcome us back to your side.
You have spread this table for us,
offering us not only the bread and wine,
but your very self, present with us here and everywhere.

On the night before he died,
Jesus gathered with his friends for a meal.
He took bread, gave thanks, broke it,
gave it to them and said,
“Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper he took the cup;
when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood
poured out for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.”

In anticipation of receiving these gifts,
we proclaim our faith and our hope as we say:

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

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us,
breathe upon us now and upon this bread and wine.
May they be for us Christ’s body and blood,
gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole.
As this bread and wine become a part of us,
may we become a part of you, Lord Jesus,
united with you and with each other in love.
Dare us to live for justice and joy,
trusting that all things will work together for good
through the power of love that raised you from the dead,
the power of the love we share in your name, through Christ our
Lord. **AMEN**

Confident in the Grace and power of the resurrection, we now
pray for our daily bread as you taught us:

The Lord’s Prayer