

Communion Prayer for use at a service Commissioning

Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers and Locally Recognised Worship Leaders

God is here!

All **God's Spirit is with us!**

Lift up your hearts

All **we lift them up to God!**

Let us give God our thanks and praise!

All **This is indeed our duty and joy!**

Eternal God,

from the beginning of time all creation worships you,
the sun, moon, and stars dance with joy in your presence,
all your creatures praise your most holy name,
and we, your people, thank you for your Word.

Since the earliest times you have spoken to us;
long ago your voice rang over the waters of the deep,
and now sounds through natural wonder, ancient story, and bold prophet.
In the fullness of time your Word burst forth in Jesus
who taught us to love and to worship, to question and to challenge.
He stood against the powers of his age
and calls us to do the same today.

Before he was given over to torture, degradation, and death,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends, and, during that meal,
took bread, prayed the ancient blessing, and said:

Take this all of you and eat it, for this is my body
which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me.

When supper was over, he took the cup of wine,
again prayed the ancient prayer of blessing,
gave the cup to his friends and said:

Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant
so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

After three days in the darkness of death
the silence of the tomb was ruptured by your word, O Most High,
filling Christ with new life,
confounding the powers of evil that seek to rule our world,
inspiring us to live as he lives,
showing love and compassion,
and preaching the gospel of your holy love.

May your Holy Spirit come upon us,
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that as we show forth Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross,
by the broken bread and outpoured wine,
we may know, as we eat and drink,
Jesus' presence with us, risen and ascended,
giving himself for our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

United around this table with the whole Church,
we offer ourselves anew
and rejoice in the promise of Christ's coming in glory.

Give us, O Most High, tongues to extoll your great deeds,
hearts to respond to the preaching of your Word,
discernment to bring rest to the weary, excitement to the jaded,
and joy to the downtrodden.

Bless all who dare to preach your Word
and lead your people in worship,
that through their ministry,
your Church may grow in grace,
your people be renewed and sustained to minister to the world.

Through Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus,
in the loving power of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, O Most High,
forever and ever,

All **Amen!**