

Fourth order of Holy Communion

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URC Worship Additional Resources to complement this book can be found online, along with this Worship Book, as A4 downloadable versions in PDF and Word format for printing: www.urchurch.org.uk/worship-book

The Bible may be brought into the church; the Minister may call the people to worship.

Let us worship God.

Scripture sentences

All This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All It is good to give thanks to the Lord;
for God's love endures for ever.

Other sentences may be used or seasonal sentences added.

Prayer of Approach

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

or

Almighty God,
infinite and eternal
in wisdom, power and love:
we praise you for all that you are,
and for all that you do for the world.

You have shown us your truth and your love
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Help us by your Spirit
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn or Psalm

An appropriate hymn or psalm can be used.

Confession of sin

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.

All **Lord God most merciful,
we confess that we have sinned,
through our own fault,
and in common with others,
in thought, word and deed,
and through what we have left undone.**

We ask to be forgiven.

**By the power of your Spirit
turn us from evil to good,
help us to forgive others,
and keep us in your ways
of righteousness and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

In repentance and in faith
receive the promise of grace
and the assurance of pardon.

Here are words you may trust,
words that merit full acceptance:

‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.’

1 Timothy 1:15

Your sins are forgiven for his sake.

All **Thanks be to God.**

or

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish
but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

To all who repent and believe,
we declare, in the name of the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit:
God grants you the forgiveness of your sins.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Kyries

Lord, have mercy on us.

All **Christ, have mercy on us.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

Gloria in excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayer for grace

The collect of the day or prayer for grace may be said here or after the sermon.

The theme of the service may be introduced, particularly to any children present, and a hymn sung before they leave; or this may be done following one of the readings.

Old Testament reading

and/or a New Testament reading

Psalm, canticle, hymn or anthem

New Testament reading

or readings: Epistle and Gospel

Hymn

Sermon

The sermon may be followed by silence and/or prayer.

Hymn

Prayers for the Church and the world

After each paragraph a response may be said, such as

Lord, in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

The subjects after the words 'We pray for' are suggestions. Intervals of silence may be kept. The prayer may be made continuous by omitting the words 'We pray for' and the words in italics.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose Spirit helps us in our weakness
and guides us in our prayers;
we pray for the Church and for the world
in the name of Jesus Christ.

We pray for

*the Church throughout the world
our Ministers, Elders and members
local unity and witness*

Renew the faith and life of the Church;
strengthen its witness;
and make it one in Christ.
Grant that we
and all who confess that he is Lord
may be faithful in service
and filled with his spirit,
and that the world may be turned to Christ.

We pray for

*the nations of the world
our own country
all who work for reconciliation*

Guide the nations in the ways
of justice, liberty and peace;
and help them to seek the unity
and welfare of all peoples.

Give to our King and to all in authority
wisdom to know and strength to do what is right.

We pray for

all who serve the community

Grant that men and women
in their various callings
may have grace to do their work well;
and may the resources of the earth be wisely used,
truth honoured and preserved,
and the quality of our life enriched.

We pray for

the sick and the suffering
victims of injustice
the lonely and the bereaved

Comfort those in sorrow;
heal the sick in body or in mind;
and deliver the oppressed.
Give us active sympathy for all who suffer;
and help us so to bear the burdens of others
that we may fulfil the law of Christ.

We pray for

our families
friends and neighbours
all who need our prayers

Keep us and the members of our families
united in loyalty and in love,
and always in your care;
and may our friends and neighbours,
and all for whom we pray,
receive the help they need, and live in peace.

We remember those who have died

Eternal God, accept our thanks and praise
for all who have served you faithfully here on earth,
and especially for those dear to our own hearts ...

May we and all your people,
past, present and to come,
share the life and joy of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The invitation and the gracious words

All those present may be invited to share in the Lord's Supper.

Hear the gracious words of
our Lord Jesus Christ;

Come to me,
all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35

Anyone who comes to me
I will never drive away. John 6:37

The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.

All **Peace be with you.**

Offertory

The offerings of the people are collected. The bread and wine may be brought to the table or, if already present, are uncovered.

Let us pray.

All **Eternal God,
we come with these gifts
to offer our sacrifice of praise
and the service of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

This hymn may be sung while the money, bread and wine are brought to the table, in which case the offertory prayer follows the hymn.

The narrative of the institution of the Lord's Supper

Hear the narrative of the institution of the Lord's Supper as it was recorded by the apostle Paul.

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that 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.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The taking of the bread and wine

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and following his example,
we take this bread and this cup,
and give thanks to God.

The Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

With joy we give you thanks and praise,
Almighty God, Source of all life and love,
that we live in your world,
that you are always creating and
sustaining it by your power,
and that you have so made us
that we can know and love you,
trust and serve you.

We give you thanks
that you loved the world so much
that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who has faith in him
may not die but have eternal life.

[A seasonal or other special thanksgiving may follow here.](#)

We thank you that Jesus was born among us
that he lived our common life on earth;
that he suffered and died for us;
that he rose again;
and that he is always present
through the Holy Spirit.

We thank you that we can live in the faith
that your kingdom will come,
and that in life, in death and beyond death
you are with us.

Therefore with all the company of heaven,
and with all your people,
of all places and times,
we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise.

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.

All **Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy Lord God,
by what we do here
in remembrance of Christ
we celebrate his perfect sacrifice on the Cross
and his glorious resurrection and ascension;
we declare that he is Lord of all;
and we prepare for his coming in his kingdom.
We pray that through your Holy Spirit
this bread may be for us the body of Christ
and this wine the blood of Christ.

Accept our sacrifice of praise;
and as we eat and drink at his command
unite us to Christ as one body in him,
and give us strength to serve you in the world.

And to you, one holy and eternal God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we give praise and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The breaking of the bread

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took bread and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said,
'This is my body which is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way also the cup saying
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

If the narrative of the institution has been used earlier in the service, as the bread is broken the Minister may say:

The bread which we break
is the communion of the body of Christ.

And as the cup is raised the Minister may say:

The cup of blessing which we bless
is the communion of the blood of Christ.

The Sharing of the bread and wine

In giving the bread the Minister says:

Take, eat – this is the body of Christ
which is broken for you;
do this in remembrance of him.

or

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ,
given for you.

In giving the cup the Minister says:

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ,
shed for you and for many
for the remission of sins: drink of it.

or

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, shed for you.

The acclamation

Let us praise the Lord.

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
Blessing and honour
and glory and power
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Most gracious God,
we praise you for what you have given
and for what you have promised us here.
You have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
You have fed us with the bread of life,
and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you;
and we ask that our daily living
may be part of the life of your kingdom,
and that our love may be your love
reaching out into the life of the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn or doxology

Dismissal and blessing

Go in peace to serve the Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always.

All **Amen.**

Seasonal Thanksgivings

Advent

We praise you
that through his coming
your promises given by the prophets were fulfilled,
and that the day of our deliverance has dawned;
and, as we look for the triumph of his kingdom,
we exult with holy joy.

Christmas

We praise you that he took our nature
and was born as the child of Mary,
that he might share our life,
reveal your love and reconcile us to yourself,
and give us power to become
your sons and daughters.

Epiphany

We praise you that he is the light of the world
through whom we are brought
out of darkness into light,
and that by him your glory
has been revealed to the nations.

Lent

We praise you that because of his likeness to us
he was tested in every way yet without sin,
and that having endured and overcome temptation

he is able to help us in our times of trial,
and to give us strength to take up the cross
and follow him.

Passiontide

We praise you that for us and for our salvation
he humbled himself
and in obedience accepted even death –
death on a cross;
and that he bore our sins
in his body on the tree
that we being dead to sin
should live to righteousness.

Easter

We praise you
that after he had suffered
and been put to death on the cross
he was raised from the dead by your power;
that he is the true Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world;
and that by his glorious resurrection
he has restored us to eternal life
and given us the joy of your kingdom.

Ascension

We praise you
that having suffered and died for us
and being raised from the dead
he lives and reigns for ever in your glory,
and so fulfils his promise
to be with us always to the end of the age.

Pentecost

We praise you that according to the promise of Christ
the Holy Spirit came to fill the Church with power;
and that the Spirit comes to us today
that we being renewed and strengthened
may proclaim the Gospel to the world.