****

**Holy Communion**

**for use at the**

**Presbyteral Session**

**of a Synod**

**NOTES**

1. The basic elements of the service are marked by the symbol \*. Other sections may be omitted.

2. This service is primarily designed for use during the Presbyteral Session of a Synod, although it may also be used on other appropriate occasions.

3. If the following questions asked from the Agenda of the Presbyteral Session are to be asked and answered during the service, they may form part of no. 13:

Does each of us continue faithfully to discharge the obligations laid upon us by the ministry which we have received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the grace of God? Do we continue to believe and preach our doctrines and observe and administer our discipline?

4. When this service is used outside Ordinary Seasons, the great prayer of thanksgiving from the appropriate seasonal service in *The Methodist Worship Book* may replace no. 20.

**THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

\*1 The presiding minister says:

God who created you says:
‘I have called you by name, you are mine.’

2 This or some other hymn:

Lord God, your love has called us here

3 The presiding minister says:

Sisters and brothers,
we meet to worship God,
to give thanks for the vocation which we share,
and to reflect upon our life and ministry.

4 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. Amen.

\*5 The presiding minister says:

Let us confess our sins to God.

Gracious and merciful God,
you call us to live in gratitude and faithfulness.

Silence

When we are unfaithful, and misuse our time and your gifts,

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You call us to live in truth and holiness.

Silence

When our words and our worship ignore the claim of your sovereign rule,

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You call us to love, as you have first loved us.

Silence

When our love for you and others is weak and inconsistent,

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You call us to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

Silence

When our witness and service do not glorify your name,

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You call us to act justly and to love mercy.

Silence

When we neglect those in need and act without compassion,

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You call us to minister peace and reconciliation.

Silence

When we cause needless offence and hinder the work of your Spirit,

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Silence

God says:
‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.’

EITHER OR

May almighty God Know that your sins are forgiven
have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
forgive us our sins, and rejoice in his goodness and
and keep us in life eternal. grace.
Amen. Amen. Thanks be to God.

\*6 *The collect of the day or this or some other prayer:*

God of all grace,
you call your Church to be a holy people
to the praise of your name.
In the power of your Spirit,
fill our hearts with your love
and our lives with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

\* *Either two or three readings from scripture follow, the last of which is the Gospel.*

7 *The Old Testament reading for the day, or in the Easter Season the reading for the day from Acts, or one of the following:*

Exodus 18:13-23

 Ruth 1:6-18

 Isaiah 49:1-6

 Ezekiel 34:1-10

 Micah 4:6-8

 Acts 12:24 – 13:5

 Acts 16:1-2, 6-10

8 *The Psalm for the day, or one of the following:*

 Psalm 115

 Psalm 119:169-176

 Psalm 133

9 *The Epistle for the day, or one of the following:*

 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 6:2

 1 Peter 5:1-4

10 *Hymn*

\*11 A reading from the Gospel according to . . .

Hear the Gospel of Christ.
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

*The Gospel for the day, or one of the following, is read:*

 Matthew 4:18-22

 Mark 3:13-19, 31-35

 Luke 10:1-7, 17-20

 John 21:15-22

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

\*12 *Sermon*

**ACT OF RECOLLECTION**

*If the following questions asked from the Agenda of the Presbyteral Session are to be asked and answered during the service, they may form part of no. 13:*

Does each of us continue faithfully to discharge the obligations laid upon us by the ministry which we have received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the grace of God? Do we continue to believe and preach our doctrines and observe and administer our discipline?

\*13 *The presiding minister says:*

God, the living and faithful one,
you have called us to service among your people.

We bring to mind how you have led and guided us,

remembering your grace and mercy to us.

Silence

We give thanks for those whom you have given us

to strengthen and encourage us in our life and work.

Silence

We ask you to renew in us our sense of vocation

in prayer, in study, in reading the Scriptures

and in the exercise of our ministry in the Church and the world.

Silence

We ask for wisdom and strength

to minister Christ’s love and compassion in the service of others.

Silence

We ask for grace to serve you more faithfully

in the ministry of the Word and Sacraments

to which we are called and ordained.

Silence

**O God,**

**forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you,**

**mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit**

**may in all things direct and rule our hearts;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*14 These or some other prayers of intercession:

Let us offer our prayer
with all God’s people
through Jesus Christ our Lord
who ever lives to pray for us.
 We pray for the life of the world . . .
 We pray for all who share with us in God’s mission . . .
 We pray for those who have not received the Gospel . . .
 We pray for all in trouble or distress . . .
 We pray for the communities in which we live and work . .
 We pray for our families and friends . . .
 We pray for the people entrusted to our care . . .
 We pray for the whole people of God . . .
 We remember those who have died . . .

Other petitions may follow.

Be present, Lord,
by the grace of your Spirit,
with all for whom we pray.
We offer our prayer
in the name of Christ. Amen.

\*15 *The**Lord's Prayer*

EITHER

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

OR

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

**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,**

**the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

16 *The Nicene Creed*

All stand.

Let us profess the faith of the Church.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

17 *The Peace*

All stand.

Christ is our peace.

He has called us to peace as ministers of reconciliation.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.*

**THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

18 *Hymn*

\*19 The offerings of the people are presented. Bread and wine are brought to the table (or if already on the table are uncovered). The presiding minister takes the bread and wine and prepares them for use.

**THE THANKSGIVING**

\*20 *All stand.*

The presiding minister leads the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessèd are you, Lord our God,
creator and sustainer of all.

You call into being all that is,
giving life and breath to all that lives.
In your enduring purpose
you raise up a people to serve you,
to witness to your glory,
and to reveal your presence in the world.

All glory is yours, O Lord.

Age to age tells of your faithfulness,
and of your redeeming mercy.
You free your people from captivity and sin,
guiding and leading them to their promised home.
In the fullness of time you revealed
what no eye had seen, nor ear heard,
nor human heart conceived:
we see and hear and know you
in Jesus Christ your Son.

Sharing our human nature,
he freely offered his life upon the cross
for the salvation of all.
By death he broke death’s power
and, risen from the tomb,
he restores all things to new life,
that all may live in him.

All glory is yours, O Lord.

Through him you send your Spirit of grace and power,
calling us to serve you in faith and hope and love,
that from every heart and every tongue may rise
this ceaseless song of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessèd are you, God of mercies;
to you we offer praise,
remembering how, among his disciples,
your Son Jesus Christ took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying,
‘Take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.’
After supper he took the cup.
He gave you thanks and gave it to them, saying,
‘Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.’

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

And so, Father,
we celebrate this mystery,
in which we call to mind
your Son’s self-offering for us,
and offer ourselves
in union with him,
for the life of the world.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Send your Spirit upon us,
and upon all whom you have called to serve you.
Strengthened by your grace,
may we come with all your servants
to that feast prepared for all people
and join in your unending praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

through whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

\*21 *The presiding minister breaks the bread in the sight of the people in silence, or saying:*

Christ is the true bread from heaven.
Christ gives life to the world.

\*22 Silence, all seated or kneeling

23 Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

**THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

\*24 *The presiding minister, those assisting with the distribution, and the people receive.*

*The presiding minister may say these or other words of invitation:*

Christ welcomes you to his table.
Draw near with faith.

\*25 Words such as the following are said during the distribution:

The body of Christ given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ shed for you. Amen.

26 *During the distribution there may be appropriate music.*

*\**27 *The elements that remain are covered with a white cloth.*

**PRAYERS AND DISMISSAL**

28 *Silence*

29 Let us pray.

**Lord our God,**
**strengthen the hands**
**that have received these holy gifts,**
**that we may faithfully serve you all our days;**
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

30 *Hymn*

31 The presiding minister says:

The almighty God bless *you/us*,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

\*32 The presiding minister says:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

© 2000 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes