

A Service for the Celebration of Holy Communion at a District Event

This service was created by the Worship and Liturgy Resources Group in response to the need for a service to celebrate the creation of new Methodist districts in the autumn of 2006. This is a slightly modified version which may be used at all times when a district wishes to hold a celebration of Holy Communion, such as at a representative session of the synod.

The Gathering of the People of God

The presiding minister says:

From east and west,
From north and south,
God's people gather together in praise.
Glory and Praise to God!

Hymn

Let us pray.

Glory to you, O God:
Your Spirit brooded over the face of waters,
Your Word called forth creation,
Your Breath brought life to women and men,
And it was good!

Glory to you, O God:
Your graceful rainbow stretched across the heavens,
Your cloud led the people through the wilderness,
Your prophets proclaimed your ways,
And it was good!

Glory to you, O God:
Your love brought Christ to birth,
Your love led Christ to the cross,
Your love raised Christ from the tomb
And it was good!

Glory to you, O God:
Your Son ascended in glory,
Your Spirit came like wind and fire,
Your grace gave birth to a new community
And it was good!

Glory to you, O God:
Your love has called us here,
Your Spirit leads us into new things,
Your call sends us on,
Glory and Praise to God!

The presiding minister says:

If we have lost our vision of your ways,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have failed to heed your call,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have been fearful of new things,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have forgotten the joy of the Gospel,
Lord, forgive us.

Silence

May the living God
renew our vision,
give us victory over sin
and set us free in Christ. **Amen.**

Collect

Creator God:
you call your world to peace,
you call your church to renewal,
you call your people to follow.
Fill us with your Spirit
and make all things new.
By that same power
transform our fear into faith
that we may have courage to follow
in the way of your kingdom;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

The Ministry of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Epistle

Hymn

Gospel Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to . . .

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

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

Sermon

Hymn

Greetings

Greetings from the Methodist Connexional Representative, Ecumenical Guests and Civic Authorities may be given here.

Intercessions

The prayers of Intercession include prayers for the world, the church in all places and the churches and people who make up the District

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.**

The Lord's Supper

The Peace

All stand.

In Christ, the people of God are called together in peace.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

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

The Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn

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

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.

Lord our God, gracious and holy,
your power sustains all creation.
In love you create all things
and in mercy you redeem them.
From age to age you gather a people to serve you,
to proclaim your glory
and to reveal your presence in all the world.

In the fullness of time
you sent your Son, Jesus Christ,
the true Shepherd of your people;
in him we see your face and hear your word.
In compassion he restored us and made us whole,
laying down his life upon the cross
and freely offering himself for all.
You did not leave him in death
but raised him by your mighty power
to make all things new.

Through him you sent the Holy Spirit,
to lead your people into all truth,
calling out the church to care for your world,
to share in your mission.
to proclaim your word in acts of love and service.

With all your people on earth and in heaven
we join the 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.
Blessd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, we give you praise
as we call to mind
how, at supper with 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.

Therefore, recalling Christ's offering of himself
and celebrating this feast of our redemption,
we offer ourselves to you
through Christ our great High Priest.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Remember, Lord, your Church throughout the world.
Send your Spirit upon us;
gather us into unity,
strengthen our faith
and sustain our hope.

Bring us, with all who place their hope in you,
to the promised feast in your kingdom,
where for ever we may offer you our praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

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

The Breaking of the Bread

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.

The Sharing of the Bread and Wine

All sit.

*The presiding minister, those assisting with the distribution, and the people receive,
according to local custom.*

Appropriate words of invitation may be said.

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

Words such as the following are said during the distribution:

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

During the distribution there may be appropriate music.

The presiding minister covers what remains of the elements with a white cloth.

The Final Prayers

Silence

Post Communion prayer

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.**

Hymn

Blessing

All remain standing. The presiding minister says:

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

Dismissal

The presiding minister says:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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