

## **Eating and Drinking with Jesus: A Communion Prayer**

### **Invitation**

The celebration of communion is always  
 a festival of friends,  
 where we gather around the table  
 with all our hopes and dreams,  
 longing for a glimpse of the holy.  
 It is here where bread is broken and the cup is shared  
 that we can be most truly ourselves  
 and see ourselves and others  
 as sons and daughters of the living God.  
 Here, that which is earthly becomes divine  
 and that which is human  
 becomes more than it has ever dreamed.  
 So come to the table – you are all welcome.  
 Come - Christ is here to meet us. *(adapted from CGP, 271)*

**Communion Hymn** – 460 VU – “All Who Hunger”

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God be with you**

And also with you.

**Lift up your hearts**

We lift them up to God.

**Let us give thanks to God.**

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Gracious and loving God, we praise and thank you,  
 for you are the creator of all goodness  
 and the source of abundance.

In the beginning, your Spirit danced on the waters and brought us life,  
 and in your generosity, you created a garden of delights and nourishment:  
 apples and artichokes;  
 potatoes and pomegranates;  
 cabbages and carrots and corn.

You gave us oceans teeming with fish,  
 and forests where deer and other animals roamed,  
 And you called us to live with respect in creation and to care for one another.

You brought your people out of slavery into a land of milk and honey,  
 flowing with streams of living water

and planted with groves of olive trees;  
 And even when we turned away from you  
 living in greed and violence,  
 overfishing the oceans,  
 despoiling the land,  
 ignoring those who had no food,  
 You sent us prophets to call us back and remind us to live for a day  
 when no-one would be hungry  
 and we would live together as gardeners and neighbours  
 in justice and peace.

And so with people around the world:  
 farmers and fishers,  
 wine-makers and coffee growers,  
 butchers and bakers,  
 those who deliver our daily bread,  
 and those who prepare and serve it  
 to our dining tables and our kitchen tables,  
 We raise our voices in thanks and praise:

***Santo, santo, santo .... You are holy, God!***  
***Holy, holy, holy. Hosanna in the highest!***  
***Let all creation praise and pray, Save us, Holy God!***

Generous God, we give you thanks for Jesus, who came to live with us.  
 We remember how he called his disciples to follow him  
 and become fishers of all people.

We thank you that he loved eating and drinking around tables  
 where strangers became friends  
 and outcasts – tax collectors, gentiles, women - were included.

**He told stories about banquets and barns and vineyards,  
 and taught us to pray for Jubilee,  
 a time of cosmic liberation when no one will be hungry.**

**On the hillside, in the corn fields, on the seashore,  
 he reminded us of the importance of food  
 for our bodies and for our spirits.**

Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried,  
 But you raised him from the dead;  
 and like his disciples,  
 we meet him again in the breaking of bread.

as we gather around his table.

We remember that on the night he was betrayed,  
 Jesus sat at table with his beloved friends  
     sharing the fruit of the vine  
     and the harvest of the fields.

We remember that after he had given thanks  
     he took bread, broke it and shared it,  
     reminding his disciples that he would be always be with them.  
 In the same way, he took the cup and spoke of a new covenant,  
     a new relationship with them.

**O God, giver of all that is good,  
 We thank you for this bread and this fruit of the vine,  
     symbols of the harvest of your good earth,  
     and we look to the day when  
     we will all eat together as your holy people;  
 In the meantime, we live in your promise  
     as we sing together:**

*Christ has died, is risen, will come again to meet us,  
 And walks with us the way of love, Holy kindom, come!*

Ever present giver,  
 Send your Spirit on us and what we do here  
     as we gather around Christ's Table  
     to feed on the living Word,  
 That in our eating and drinking  
     we may be one in Christ  
     and one with your vision of peace and plenty.

In Christ, with Christ, through Christ  
 in the power of the Holy Spirit  
 All glory is yours, now and ever.

*Holy, holy, holy. Amen, we pray, with longing.  
 Let all creation cry Amen! Holy Kindom come!*

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Wine

Sharing the Bread and Cup (music #196 MV – “God Bless to Us This Bread”)

**Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, O God, that you have blessed us at this table,  
as you bless us at all our tables.

May our eating and drinking together be a sign of your kingdom  
as we go forth in your name  
to love and serve the world.

Amen.

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