

A SERVICE OF THE TABLE I

HOLY COMMUNION (*FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH*)

Use the following liturgy if, for the portion of today's worship service dedicated to the Service of the Table (Holy Communion), the bulletin says **UMH 7**.

(if the bulletin says **UMH 12, 15, or 17**;
choose Service of the Table II, III, or Musical Setting A respectively)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

The United Methodist Church practices Open Communion.
It does not matter your beliefs, disbeliefs, or unbeliefs,
your affiliations or associations.
It is the Lord's Table. Not ours.
We do not set the guest list.

(The following liturgy will begin after today's sermon.)

Pastor: words in light print (M) People's response: words in bold print (P)
[Directions are in red]

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

M: This is the joyful feast of God's people!
This is the Table of our Lord!

Christ our Lord invites to His Table
all who love Him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.

The correct response to this meal of grace
is to live out our Covenant professed at our baptism!
Therefore, knowing that we are already forgiven,
let us now confess before God and one another
the brokenness we share with all humanity:

CONFESSION *(this or a similar prayer of confession will be used)*

ALL: Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done Your will,
we have broken Your law,
we have rebelled against Your love,
we have not loved our neighbors, and
we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord:
AMEN!

[All pray in silence. Silent reflection & confession.]

ASSURANCE *(this or similar words of Assurance will be used)*

M: Hear the good news:

*“Christ died for us while we were still sinners;
that proves God's love toward us!”*

(Romans 5:8)

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(pastor to the people)

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(people to the pastor)

ALL: Glory to God! AMEN!

OPTIONAL

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

[All exchange signs and words of God's peace.]

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

[The pastor takes the bread and cup and prepares them for the meal.]

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

M: The Lord be with you!

P: And also with you!

M: Lift up your hearts!

P: We lift them up to the Lord!

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

*The Sursum corda,
or opening dialogue.*

This greeting is between the pastor and the people and invites each of us to join in the giving of thanks, just as we might give thanks over an ordinary meal at home.

*M: It is right, and a good, and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to You,
God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in Your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
Your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through Your prophets.

**This begins the prayer, and the rest of The Great Thanksgiving is directed to God.*

Here, the first part of salvation history is retold.

*(The Hebrew Bible or
The 'Old' Testament)*

We recount God's work throughout history, beginning with the Creation of the universe and leading up to the time of Christ. Our sinning and God's love are emphasized.

M: And so,
with Your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

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!

Hosanna in the highest!"

**This refers to Christ*

*Revelation 4:8
The Sanctus Isaiah 6:3*

*Last 3 lines based on
Jesus' entry into Jerusalem
on a donkey, as shouted
by the crowds.*

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed Him

to preach Good News to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when You would save Your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of His suffering, death, and Resurrection

You gave birth to Your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,
He promised to be with us always,
in the power of Your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us,
He took bread, gave thanks to You, God,
broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said:

**“Take, eat; this is My body which is given for You.
Do this in remembrance of Me.”**

When the supper was over, He took the cup,
gave thanks to You, God, gave it to His disciples, and said:

**“Drink from this, all of you;
this is My blood of the New Covenant,
poured out for You and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it
in remembrance of Me.”**

And so,
in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves [back] in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Here, the second part of
salvation history
is retold.*

(The New Testament)

*The works and Good
News of Jesus Christ and
the creation of the Church
is recalled.*

*Jesus’ new covenant
with us is emphasized.*

Institution Narrative.

*The story of Jesus’ eating
with His disciples.*

*This one is taken from
1 Corinthians 11:23-25
and recalls
‘the Last Supper’
(the last meal Jesus had
before He died on the
cross).*

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Memorial Acclamation

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and *wine [cup].
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by His blood.

*The epiklesis;
calling on the power of God's Spirit
to bless the gathered people
and the bread and cup.
*although we may retain the word
'wine' we use nonalcoholic, unfermented
grape juice.*

By Your Spirit make us
one with Christ,
one with each other, *and*
one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at His heavenly banquet.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in Your holy church,
all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty God,
now and forever.

*A doxology;
a praise to the Holy Trinity:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

ALL: AMEN!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

M: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

[Traditional version]

[This version is used by Pastor Caleb]

ALL:

**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
and the power
and the glory forever.
AMEN!**

ALL:

**Our *Abba, in heaven,
holy is Your name!
Your kin-dom come!
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven!
Give us today our daily bread!
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us!
Let us not fall into temptation
and deliver us from evil!
For Yours are the kin-dom,
and the power,
and the glory forever and ever!
AMEN!**

**Alternate: 'Parent' (inclusive) or
'Father & Mother' (expansive)*

BREAKING THE BREAD

[The pastor breaks the bread in silence, or while saying:]

M: Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

[The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:]

M: The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*[The bread and wine are given to the people,
with these or other words being exchanged:]*

M: The body of Christ, given for you. **P: AMEN!**

M: The blood of Christ, given for you. **P: AMEN!**

[When all have received, the Lord's Table is put back in order.]

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

[The following prayer is then offered by the pastor or by all:]

ALL: Eternal God, we give You thanks for this holy mystery
in which You have given Yourself to us.

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of Your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord:**

AMEN!

*(the worship service continues with Announcements / God-Sightings /
A Call to Discipleship / A Hymn of Mission / Dismissal & Blessing)
(please refer again to your bulletin)*