

SECOND ORDER OF WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

The Peace and the Offering

After the Order for the Word is completed with an ascription of glory or a period of meditation and brief prayer and/or the saying of a creed or declaration of faith, a hymn on the theme of the sermon or a Communion hymn may be sung.

The offering is taken up.

As the last part of the hymn is being sung, the offering and the bread and wine, if not already on the Table, are brought up to the Table.

If no hymn has been sung, the congregation may stand as the offering is brought forward and sing a short doxology such as the following.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
in heaven above and earth below;
one God, three persons, we adore—
to this God praise for evermore!**

If the bread and wine are already on the Table, they are unveiled.

Jesus said:

(If you are about to place your gift on the altar
and remember that someone is angry with you,
leave your gift there in front of the altar.)

First go and make peace with your brother, your sister:
then come back and offer your gift to God.

Matt.5:23f.

Or

Jesus said:

Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

(I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.)

Jn. 14:27

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

Peace be with you.

Before we offer our gifts and come to the Lord's table,
let us share this peace with one another.

Those holding the offering bags or plates leave them at the Table.

All share the peace with their neighbours saying:

Peace with you.

And with you.

*Those who brought up the offerings stand in front of the Table.
If the people are to be served in their pews, the appointed elders stand with them.*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,
the splendour and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own do we give to you.

2 Chr.29:11,14

A doxology may be sung, if one has not been sung before.

The congregation is then seated, the appointed elders at the Table.

The Invitation

Jesus Christ is risen! He stands among us as the living Lord
and invites us to his holy table.
It is his table, not ours, and he has prepared it for his disciples.
In his name we invite to the joyful feast all who turn from their sins,
trust in him as their Saviour, and seek to live a new life
in the power of his Spirit and at peace with all their neighbours.

Or

This is the table of the Lord,
and for all who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
made ready for all who love him
you who come often, and you who do not come often enough
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.
Come because the Lord invites us all to meet him here.
Brothers and sisters, listen to the gracious words
with which he bids us come to him and assures us of his welcome:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Matt.5:6

Or

Listen! I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in to be with him and eat with him,
and he with me.

Rev.3:21

Let us say together:

**We come to your table, Lord,
trusting not in any goodness of our own,**

**but only in your great mercy.
For we are unworthy to eat
even the crumbs that fall from your table,
but you have declared to us your grace;
you have called us to your banquet.
So by your Spirit feed us now
with your body and blood,
that you may live in us and we in you for ever.
Amen.**

Following the example of our Lord
and obeying his command,
we do this to commemorate him
and be united to him in his death and resurrection.

As the Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,
so I take these elements of bread and wine
to be set apart from all common use to this holy use and mystery.

*The minister lifts the paten and then the chalice from the Table and lays
his hands on the other vessels.*

And as he then gave thanks to God,
let us draw near to offer our prayer of thanksgiving.

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

The people may stand.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

*The minister lifts up his hands and leads in one of the following four
Prayers.*

*The prayer may include (before the Sanctus) thanks for our communion
with all the saints, for the great witnesses of the faith in the past and for
departed loved ones (who should be named if they have died
recently).*

First Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, we thank you for making all things through your Word,
for commanding light to shine in the darkness,
for stretching out the heavens and laying the foundations of the
earth,
for creating us in your image and keeping us safe in your faithful love.

In silence we each thank you now for particular blessings in our lives....

So with all the angels and archangels
we proclaim your great and glorious Name,
for ever worshipping you and saying/singing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
heaven and earth are full of your glory;
glory be to you, Lord most high.**

Isa.6:3

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Matt.21:9

Thank you for the Law and the Prophets, who show your purpose to us.

But above all we thank you, O God, for Jesus Christ your only Son,
who was born of Mary and lived among us full of grace and truth,
who died on the Cross in obedience to you,
whom you raised from the dead by your power
and who reigns as Lord of creation and Head of the Church, his body.

Thank you that our Lord Jesus instituted this sacrament,
so that through our celebration of it
we might discover the power of his death and resurrection.

Therefore we rejoice with all God's people who cry out:

Our Lord, come!

1 Cor.16:22

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Rev.22:20

Come in victory!

Come in glory!

For already now

You feast with us.

Grant, O Lord, that the bread we break and the cup we share
may be a means through which your Holy Spirit unites us all with Christ
and with one another as members of his one Body.

So may we be his faithful disciples
and true sisters and brothers to one another
until we feast with him in his Kingdom.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Second Prayer of Thanksgiving

O Lord most high and holy, we thank you that you have made us
and given us space and freedom to move.

You make the sun rise over good and bad alike.

You have given the earth into our keeping.

You have called us to stand shoulder to shoulder in care and trouble,
and in joy and sorrow, always living with our faces toward you.
(In silence) we now (each) thank you for special blessings:
Therefore, with all creatures in heaven and on earth ,
we praise you, for ever worshipping you and saying/singing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
heaven and earth are full of your glory;
glory be to you, Lord most high.**

Isa.6:3

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Matt.21:9

We thank you for Jesus Christ, your only Son,
who came into this world to deliver us,
to be the great Sacrifice atoning for our sins,
to be our Shepherd until we die,
and to be our example from day to day,
that we might do what he did and be like he was,
and so be bread and peace to one another.
We thank you that on the night he was arrested,
he broke bread with his friends,
calling them to bear witness to his life
and proclaim his death until he comes.
We thank you that you raised him up to be the new creation;
you glorified him and he is now hidden in you.
Therefore we rejoice with all the people of God who cry out:

Our Lord, come!

1 Cor.16:22

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Rev.22:20

Come in victory!

Come in glory!

For already now

You feast with us!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts
and let us now share the life of our Lord that conquers death for ever.
Do not put us to shame, and grant us your peace.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Third Prayer of Thanksgiving

O holy Father, the hour has come.
Glorify your Son here among us, that we may glorify you in him.
We thank you because you called light into being,
you established the earth,
you fashioned men and women in your image

and placed eternity in their hearts.

(In silence) we now (each) give thanks to you for particular blessings....

Therefore with all who have been made by you and blessed by you,
all creatures in heaven and on earth,
we praise your name, Lord our God,
ever worshipping you and saying/singing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
heaven and earth are full of your glory;
glory be to you, Lord most high.**

Isa.6:3

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Matt.21:9

You looked for us when we were lost.

You have found us, claimed us and glorified us in Jesus Christ your Son.

We thank you for this unforgettable man.

He is the beginning and the end, the light of the world,
the first to be born from the dead, the ruler over all creation.

Yet he took the place of a slave among his friends,
taking a towel and washing their feet.

And now he offers his presence to us in the breaking of a little bread
and the passing of it from hand to hand as a sign of love between
us.

Therefore we rejoice with all the people of God who cry out:

Our Lord, come!

1 Cor.16:22

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Rev.22:20

Come in victory!

Come in glory!

For already now

You feast with us!

We thank you, Lord God, that you send your Holy Spirit,

let that Spirit now move us to become like this man

and do the things he did,

so that we may be your peace in the world, your justice,
and a new beginning of love among people.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fourth Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are; you always have been; you always will be.
Yours are the white beaches, the clouds in the sky, the sun,
the seed in the womb, the heart that falters,

the mourner who grieves, the living, the dying.
Though we are of dust, and our days are hay and grass,
yet you do not take your hand from us, for you have made us all.
You have said, I shall be with you, for ever,
and now (in silence) we give thanks to you for particular blessings....
Therefore, with all your creatures, we rejoice in you and praise you,
for ever worshipping you and saying/singing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
heaven and earth are full of your glory;
glory be to you, Lord most high.**

Isa.6:3

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Matt.21:9

Lord, you have called us from near and far.
each different in face and in heart, but all of us your people.
You lead us through the desert and the darkness to a city of light.
You go before us while we live, and on the day we die you are with us.

Most blessed are you because of Jesus of Nazareth.
Your Son, our Christ, he came and worked your will in the world.
Before he suffered and died for us, he took bread and wine in his hands
and gave them to his friends.
Therefore, Lord God, with this bread and wine
we proclaim his death for the sins of the world,
and commemorate his resurrection until he comes in glory.
So with all the people of God we cry out:

Our Lord, come!

1 Cor.16:22

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Rev.22:20

Come in victory!

Come in glory!

For already now

You feast with us!

Send down your Holy Spirit on us, Lord God,
that, as we eat and drink this bread and wine,
Jesus may be with us and in us.
Make us new people,
people who hear your voice and obey you with all their hearts.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Praise and honour
and glory and power
be yours for ever.**

And now make us worthy, O Lord,
that with joy and without presumption
we may be so bold as to call upon you, God in heaven,
as our Father, and say/sing:

**Our Father in heaven,
your name be honoured,
your rule begin,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us our bread for the day ahead.
Forgive us the wrongs we have done
as we also forgive those who have wronged us.
Keep us from temptation,
and save us from evil
For you rule in power and glory,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Matt.6:9-13

Alternatively the Lord's Prayer is sung.

The congregation sits.

After he had taken the bread and given thanks to God,
the Lord Jesus broke it.

The minister breaks the bread in full view of the congregation.

The following may then be said.

Jesus, Lamb of God
Have mercy on us
Jesus bearer of our sins
Have mercy on us
Jesus, Redeemer of the world
Give us your peace.

Silence.

Amen.

Then our Lord gave the bread he had broken to his disciples,
saying: 'This is my body which is (broken) for you;
do this in commemoration of me.'

1 Cor.11:24

The bread which we break
Is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

1 Cor.10:16

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying:
'This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'

Matt.26:28

The minister pours the wine from the flagon into the chalice.

Whenever you drink it,
do this in commemoration of me.'

Lk.22:20

The cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks

Is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

1 Cor.10:16

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life,
and I will raise him to life on the last day.

Jn.6:54

Or

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me, and I in him.

Jn.11:16

Alleluia! Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed!

Therefore let us celebrate the feast! Alleluia!

1 Cor.5:7f.

Take and eat; this is the body of Christ which is given for you.
Feed on him by faith,
with thanksgiving in your hearts.

The minister consumes a piece of bread first.

The minister then hands on the bread to the elders at the Table with the words

(Name), the bread of life.

Amen.

This cup is the new covenant sealed by his blood.

1 Cor.11:25

Drink from it, all of you.

Matt.26:27

The minister drinks from the cup and hands it to the elders at the Table with the words

The cup of salvation.

Ps.116:13

Amen.

The elders at the Table distribute the bread and the wine to the congregation.

Alternatively, the congregation may receive the elements in front.

The invitation to come forward may be issued just after the words 'Alleluia! Christ our Passover Lamb' etc. and the response.

If the congregation is small, it may stand around the Table and pass the bread and wine in a circle. The minister should then invite everyone forward, including any who will not consume the elements.

If the congregation is large, it may come forward a row at a time and receive the bread and wine from the minister and an assisting elder.

As each person is handed the bread and the wine, the same versicle and response are said.

After the vessels have all been returned to the Table, the minister says:

Because there is one loaf, we who are many form one body

For we all share the same bread.

1 Cor.10:17

The minister may invite anyone in need of ministry to come forward or to remain behind afterwards.

The following acclamation may be said:

Praise the Lord, my soul!

All my being, praise his holy name!

Praise the Lord, my soul

And do not forget how kind he is!

He forgives all my sins

And heals all my diseases!

He saves me from the grave

And blesses me with love and mercy!

He fills my life with good things!

Praise the Lord, all creatures!

Ps.103:1-5,22

Or, on other occasions and especially at Ascension, the following may be shouted:

Christ is Victor!

Christ is King!

Christ is Lord of all!

Christ is Victor!

Christ is King!

Christ is Lord of all!

Notices and Intercessory Prayers

Items of important news, including prayer needs, are announced briefly.

Visitors may be invited to identify themselves and be welcomed.

The congregation may be asked to stand.

The appointed person leads the prayers from the pews or from the front.

The following versicles and responses may be used after each petition:

Lord in your mercy,

Listen to our prayer.

or

Listen to our prayer, Lord;

Hear our cry for help.

The intercessions may end with the Prayer for Africa:

**God, bless Africa:
guard her children,
guide her leaders
and give her peace,
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.**

A brief Prayer of Self-Offering may follow:

As Christ so graciously has given himself to us,
let us now stand to offer ourselves to God.
O God, may we who share Christ's body live in the power of his risen
life,
we who drink his cup share his life with others,
we whom the Spirit enlightens take your light out into the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
until we and all your children are free
and the whole earth praises your name.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A final hymn is sung.

Commission

The minister dismisses the congregation with one of the following charges:

Jesus said:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.'

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you;
for he has anointed you to tell the gospel to the poor,
he has sent you to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free the oppressed,
to announce the time of the Lord's salvation.

Jesus said:

'Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'

In the power of the Spirit, go into the world:
serve the Lord and witness to him

We go in the name of Christ.**Benediction**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
until, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
you overflow with hope.

Rom. 15:13

May God's grace be with all those
who love our Lord Jesus Christ with undying love.

Eph. 6:4

May the God who gives us peace make you completely his,
and keep your whole being, spirit, soul and body,
free from all fault,
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thess. 5:13

May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times
and in all ways.

The Lord be with you all.

1 Thess. 3:16

The threefold Amen is sung.

*The Bible is be carried out through the front door of the church and
may be followed by the bread and wine, the offerings, the
Communion elders and the minister, in procession.*