

ORDERS OF WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Biblical citations for the First and Third Orders are mostly from the English Standard Version (ESV).

Words in bold are said by the congregation.

First Order for Holy Communion

The Bible is carried into the church.

Call to Worship

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 1:3

A call to worship from Scripture is read, such as one of the following:

Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it;
shout, O depths of the earth;
break forth into singing, O mountains,
O forest, and every tree in it!
For the LORD has redeemed Jacob,
and will be glorified in Israel.

Isa. 44.23

Or

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
for the LORD has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Isa. 49.13

Or

Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O gates!
Even lift them up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
He is the King of glory.

Ps.24:7-10

Or

Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.

Ps.47.1-2

Or

O come, let us sing to the LORD ;
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation!
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving;
and show ourselves glad in him with Psalms!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

Ps.95.1-3

Following the Scripture sentences is said:

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be forever.

Amen.

The following words are said with due solemnity:

Let us worship God.

Hymn of Praise

Prayer of Praise

Commandments

The Ten Commandments (Ex.20:2-17) or the two Great Commandments (Matt.22:35-37) may be said. Alternatively they may be said after the sermon in place of the Creed.

God spoke these words and said:
I am the LORD your God

who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery;
you shall have no other gods but me.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol,
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,
or that is on the earth beneath,
or that is in the water under the earth.
You shall not bow down to them or worship them.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
For six days you shall labour and do all your work.
But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Honour your father and your mother,
so that your days may be long in the land
that the Lord your God is giving you.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not murder.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not steal.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not covet your neighbour's house;
you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or slaves, or ox, or donkey,
or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and write all these your laws in our hearts.**

Or

You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.
Matt. 22.35-40

Confession

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;
cease to do evil, learn to do good.
Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD :
though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isa.1:18

Or

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near:

Isa 55:6

Or

We do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are,
yet without sin.
Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Heb.4:15f.

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.

APB

Lord, have mercy.

Hear the word of God's forgiving grace.

One of the following or other passages of Scripture expressing the forgiveness of God are said:

The LORD passed by before Moses, and proclaimed,
'The LORD, The LORD God,
merciful and gracious,
longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.'

Ex.34:6

Or

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through him we have also obtained access by faith
into this grace in which we stand,
and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Rom.5:1f.

The minister then says:

To all those who truly acknowledge that they are sinners,
humble themselves before God,
and look to Jesus Christ for their salvation,
I declare the forgiveness of their sins,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

John Calvin

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,**

Or

O God,
by the blood of your dear Son,
You have consecrated for us a new and living way
into the holiest of all.
Assure us of Your mercy,
and sanctify us by Your heavenly grace,
that we,
approaching with pure heart and cleansed conscience,
may offer to You a sacrifice in righteousness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PCSA

Amen.

Or

Holy Father,
you admit your people into such wonderful communion
that
when we, in a divine mystery,
partake of the body and blood of your dear Son,
he dwells in us, and we in him.
As we approach Your presence this day,
and as we behold Your glory,
we sincerely repent of all our sins.
We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
and are unworthy of the least of Your mercies.
Yet, now, gracious Father, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ,
forgive us all our sins,
cleanse us from all uncleanness of mind and body,
and help us from now on to serve You in newness of life,
to the glory of Your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PCSA

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen**

Hymn

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover our peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Or

Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep Your word.
Open my eyes,
that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law. *Ps.119:17-18*
Amen.

Scripture Readings

One of the following may be said.

The words of the LORD are pure words:
as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. *Ps.12:6*

Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. *Matt.4:4*

Heaven and earth shall pass away,
but my words shall not pass away. *Matt.24:35*

He who has an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. *Rev.2:7*

Lessons are read from the Old Testament, the Epistle and the Gospel.

Sermon

Before the sermon, the minister says:

In the Name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

After the sermon is concluded, the minister says:

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Or

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Sovereign,
the King of kings, and Lord of Lords,
who alone has immortality,
who dwells in unapproachable light,
whom no one has ever seen, nor can see:
to him be honour and power everlasting.
Amen.

A time of silent meditation may follow.

Creed

The congregation, all standing, say the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed or another appropriate liturgical confession of faith.

Peace

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you:
not as the world gives, give I to you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Jn.14:27

Brothers and sisters, let us share the peace of Christ with one another.
Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Offering

Each one must give as he has made up his mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Cor.9:7

Or

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust destroy
and where thieves break in and steal,
but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys
and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matt.6.19-20

Let us worship God with our tithes and offerings.

The offering is taken.

*If the gifts of bread and wine are not already on the Table, they are
brought up and laid upon the Table.*

The Eucharist

*The minister invites people to the Table with one of the following
invitations:*

This is the table of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All those who have been baptized in his name,
including children,
are invited to share in this Holy Sacrament.

For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free;
and were all made to drink of one Spirit.

1Co 12:13

Or

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matt.11:28-30

Or

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

Rev.3:20

Then the minister says:

Surely the LORD is in this place!
This is none other but the house of God,
and this is the gate of heaven.

Gen.28:16f.

Or

What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?
I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people.
I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and will call upon the name of the LORD.

Ps.116:12-14,17

Then the minister says:

Let us lay aside the cares of this world,
for now we are to receive the King of All,
who comes accompanied by unseen hosts of angels.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

As the Lord Jesus,
on the night he was handed over,
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 gave thanks and blessed,
let us draw near to God
and offer our prayers and thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is our duty and our greatest joy
to bless You, to praise You,

to thank You, and to worship You,
in every place where Your glory resides,
for great is the majesty of Your name,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
ever-living and ever-merciful God.

You brought us into being out of nothing
and raised us up when we fell.
You left nothing undone
until You led us to heaven
and lavished on us Your future kingdom.
For all these things we thank You,
for the blessings we see and for those we cannot see.
We thank You that You are pleased to accept our worship,
when in heaven
myriads of adoring hosts,
angels and archangels,
cherubim and seraphim,
sing, shout, and cry
one to another:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,
the whole earth is full of his glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
Hosanna in the highest.

Or the following or another suitable hymn with the same content may be sung:

**Holy, holy, holy, LORD God almighty!
All Your works shall praise Your name,
in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.**

Holy Father, we too cry out and say:
You are holy and most holy,
You and Your only Son and Your Holy Spirit.
You are holy and most holy,
and great is Your glory.
You so loved the world that You gave Your only-begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish

but have everlasting life.

Remembering all that he did for us,
the gifts he gave at the Supper,
the cross,
the tomb,
the resurrection on the third day,
the ascension into heaven,
the sitting at your right hand,
and that he will come again in glory,
we offer to You these gifts from Your own gifts,
on behalf of all and for the sake of all.
We praise You, we bless You,
we give thanks to You,
Lord our God.

The following or another suitable hymn with the same theme is sung:

**You are Lord, You are Lord,
You are risen from the dead, and You are Lord.
Every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess that you are Christ, the Lord.**

If the responses are said, the people say:

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

O God, pour out Your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts.
May this bread and cup be for us
the precious body and blood of Your Christ,
that we who partake of them may not come to judgement,
but may find purity of heart,
the forgiveness of sins,
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
the treasures of the kingdom of heaven
and the paradise of Your presence.

With one voice and one burning heart,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
majestic in holiness,
before all ages,
from everlasting to everlasting,

we acclaim You,
we praise You,
we bless You,
we give thanks to You,
we worship You,
now and forever.

The Amen is sung.

The Lord's Prayer is sung, or else said in the following form:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

Matt.6:9-13

Brothers and sisters,
attend to the words of the institution of the holy Supper of our Lord:
Now as they were eating,
Jesus took bread,
(the minister takes the bread with both hands)
and when he had given thanks and praise,
he broke it,
(the minister breaks the bread)
and said,
'Take, eat; this is my body.'
Then he took the cup
(the minister takes the flagon or pitcher),
saying, 'Drink from it, all of you,
for this is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many,
(the minister pours wine into the chalice)
for the forgiveness of sins.'

Matt.26.26f.

Holy things are for the holy.
**Only Jesus Christ is holy.
We are made holy in him.**

1 Cor.1.30

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
Grant us your peace.

Jn.1.29

The minister partakes of Holy Communion.

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen.

Matt. 26.26

The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

Matt. 26.28

When all have received Communion, the vessels are returned to the Table. The minister concludes:

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Ps.103:1-5

Intimations

Prayer of Intercession

The prayer of intercession may take the form of a litany such as the following. Each bidding is followed by a pause.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the unity of the Church of God,
the salvation of all people

and the peace of the whole world,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our congregation,
for all who enter here with faith, reverence and the fear of God,
and for all those who seek the truth,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Presbytery and Session,
for all who hold office in the Church,
and for all of Christ's faithful servants,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our city,
for every city and town
and for the faithful who live in them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For good weather,
an abundance of crops and a healthy economy,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel long distances, by land, sea and air,
for the sick, the suffering, those in prison,
and for their salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from hardship, danger and distress,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us,
have mercy upon us, and protect us,
O God, by Your grace.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us commit ourselves and one another
and our whole lives to the Lord,
whose power is beyond compare,
whose glory is beyond our understanding,
whose mercy is boundless,

and whose love for us is impossible to comprehend.
Lord, look on us and on this church in Your compassion.
Give us and those who pray with us Your abundant mercy.
For to You belong all glory, honour, and worship,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Commission

The minister dismisses the congregation with a charge such as one of the following:

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today,
that I have set before you
life and death,
blessing and curse.
Therefore choose life, that you and your family may live.

Deut.30:19

Or

Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always,
to the end of the age.'

Matt.28:18-20

Benediction

Now may the God of peace
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do his will,
working in us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory forever and ever.

Heb.13:20-22

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

2 Cor.13:14

Amen.

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

Second Order for Holy Communion

Peace and 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.

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 he was betrayed,
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 prayers and 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 betrayed,
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 are with us on the day we die.
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, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

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.

Third Order for Holy Communion

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 Communion hymn may be sung.

Offering and Peace

If you are offering your gift at the altar
and there remember that your brother has something against you,
leave your gift there before the altar and go.
First be reconciled to your brother,
and then come and offer your gift.

Matt.5:23-24

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

Each person then shares the peace with the words:

Peace be with you.

And with you.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
Each one must give as he has made up his mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Cor.9:6-7

Let us worship God with our gifts.

The offering is taken up.

Eucharist

If the gifts of bread and wine are not already on the Table, they are brought up and laid on the Table.

The minister says:

This is the table of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All those who have been baptized in his name
are invited to share in this sacrament.

As Jesus welcomed children and did not forbid them,
so we welcome children,
under the care and guidance of their parents.

O God, who has consecrated for us a new and living way
into the holiest of all,
through the veil, that is, his flesh,
grant us, we pray,
the assurance of Your mercy,
and sanctify us with Your heavenly grace;
that we may be enabled to offer to You a sacrifice in righteousness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. PCSA
Amen.

As the Lord Jesus,
on the night he was betrayed,
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 gave thanks and blessed,
let us draw near to God
and offer our prayers and thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father of mercy and God of all comfort,
we acknowledge you to be the Lord.
At all times we honour your greatness and glory
first, because you created us in your own image and likeness,
but chiefly because you freed us from the enslavement of sin,
through your only-begotten Son.
You gave him in love to be made man,
like us in all things except sin,

that by his death and resurrection, he might bring life to the world.
Lord, we are not able, in our dullness,
to understand the breadth and length
and height and depth of your love;
but, as our Lord Jesus Christ commanded,
we come to this table,
which he has left to us
to commemorate his death and resurrection
until he comes again.

Here we declare and witness before the world
that by him alone we have received liberty and life,
by him alone you claim us as children and heirs,
by him alone we have access to your favour, freely shown,
by him alone we are raised into your kingdom,
there to eat and drink with you and the Son
at the most joyful table of eternal life.
In this present time we on earth have communion with you in heaven,
but in the time to come we shall be raised to that endless joy
prepared for us before the foundation of the world was laid.
We acknowledge that we have received these gifts
by your free mercy and grace
through your only Son Jesus Christ.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the Spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

A song invoking the Holy Spirit upon the congregation may be sung.

Father, moved by your Holy Spirit,
we, your church, give you all thanks, praise, and glory,
for ever and ever.

The Amen is sung.

The Lord's Prayer is sung, or else said in the following form:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

Matt.6:9-13

While saying the words of institution the minister unhurriedly breaks the bread and pours the wine.

Hear the words of the institution of the Lord's Supper,
according to the Apostle Paul:
I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you,
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said,
"This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood."
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Cor.11:23-26

Holy things are for the holy.
**Only Jesus Christ is holy.
We are made holy in him.**

1 Cor.1.30

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
Grant us your peace.

Jn.1.29

The minister partakes of the bread, and without undue delay, the cup.

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen.

Matt.26.26

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Matt.26.28

Amen.

When all have received Communion, the vessels are returned to the Table.

The minister concludes:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. *Ps.103:1-5*

A post-Communion prayer such as the following may be said:

As Christ so graciously has given himself to us,
let us now stand to offer ourselves to God:

Father almighty, by your grace we have celebrated the feast,
the banquet of the age to come,
and, through your Spirit, we have tasted that the Lord is good.
So now, we ask you graciously to accept
the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we have made before you;
and to accept us now,
as in Jesus Christ we offer our very selves to you as living sacrifices.
Make us holy and pleasing to you,
and send us out into the world in your power,
so that we may live and work and witness to your praise and glory
alone.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn

Commission

Benediction

ORDER FOR WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY WITHOUT HOLY COMMUNION

The Bible is carried into the church.

Call to Worship

Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 1:3

Or

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Tit 1:4

A Scripture verse that calls the congregation to worship is read, such as one of the following:

I will love you, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer:
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Ps.18:1-2

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Ps.27:1

As the hart pants after the water brooks,
so pants my soul after you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God:
when shall I come and appear before God?

Ps.42:1-2

O send out your light and your truth:
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill,
and to your tabernacles.
Then will I go to the altar of God,
to God, my exceeding joy.

Ps.43:3-4

How amiable are your tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD :
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Ps.84:1-2

Praise the LORD.
Praise God in his sanctuary:
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts:
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:
praise him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise him with the timbrel and dance:
praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
Praise him upon the loud cymbals:
praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let every thing that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.

Ps.150:1-6

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Jn.1:14

The hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,
for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.
God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Jn.4:23f.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever.

Amen.

Let us worship God.

Hymn of Praise

Prayer of Praise

A verse of praise is read, such as:

O Christ, you are fairer than the sons of women,
grace is poured into Your lips;
therefore God has blessed You for ever.
Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever;

the scepter of Your kingdom is a right scepter.
You love righteousness, and hate wickedness,
therefore God, Your God,
has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your fellows.
All Your garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia,
out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made You glad.

Ps.45:2,7-8

Or

O LORD, the voice of your thunder was in the heaven:
the lightnings lightened the world:
the earth trembled and shook.
Your way is in the sea
and your path in the great waters
and your footsteps are not known.
You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Ps 77

Or

The LORD reigns, he is clothed with majesty;
the LORD is clothed with strength.

Ps.93:1-2

Or

Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Isaiah 6:3

Or

Who has ascended up into heaven, or descended?
who has gathered the wind in his fists?
who has bound the waters in a garment?
who has established all the ends of the earth?
what is his name, and what is his Son's name, if you can tell?

Pr.30:4

Then the minister says this or another appropriate prayer of praise:

God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving.
Before the brightness of your presence the angels veil their faces.
With lowly reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory
and sing your praise,
for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Or

Lord God, you have appointed in heaven
orders and hosts of angels and archangels for the service of your glory.
Grant that with our entrance into this church
there may be an entrance of holy angels serving with us to glorify your
goodness.

For to you is due all glory, honour and worship:
to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Commandments

The Ten Commandments (Ex.20:2-17) or the two Great Commandments (Matt.22:35-37) may be said. Alternatively they may be said after the sermon in place of the Creed.

God spoke these words and said:

I am the LORD your God
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery;
you shall have no other gods but me.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol,
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,
or that is on the earth beneath,
or that is in the water under the earth.
You shall not bow down to them or worship them.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
For six days you shall labour and do all your work.
But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Honour your father and your mother,

so that your days may be long in the land
that the Lord your God is giving you.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not murder.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not steal.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not covet your neighbour's house;
you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or slaves, or ox, or donkey,
or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and write all these your laws in our hearts.**

Or

You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Matt. 22.35-40

Call to Confession

The minister says one of the following:

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

"I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly,
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isaiah 57:15

Or

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
a broken and a contrite heart,
O God, You will not despise.

Ps 51:17

Or

Repent therefore, and turn again,
that your sins may be blotted out,
that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the LORD,
and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.

Ac.3:19f.

Or

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Jn.3:5

Or

Since then we have a great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast our confession.
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our
weaknesses,
but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are,
yet without sin.
Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb.4:14-16

Or

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 Jn.1:8f.

Or

My little children, if anyone sins,
we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not for ours only
but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 Jn.2:1f.

Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sin to God.

LORD, turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.

Ps.25:15-18

Or

I acknowledge my sin to you,
and I do not cover my iniquity;
I confess my transgressions to You,
O LORD, forgive the iniquity of my sin.

Ps.32:5

Or

O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath!
For your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand has come down on me.
There is no soundness in my flesh
because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones
because of my sin.
For my iniquities have gone over my head;
like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

Ps.38:1-4

Or

Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
sweet breath of God,
treasury of blessings and giver of life,
come and abide in me;
cleanse me from all impurity and save my soul.

Or

Holy Trinity, have mercy on us:
Father, cleanse us from our sins.
Lord, pardon our iniquities.
Holy Spirit, visit and heal our sicknesses, for your Name's sake.

Or

LORD have mercy.
Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!
I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

Ps.70:1

Or

Have mercy on me,
O God, according to Your loving-kindness:
according to the multitude of Your tender mercies
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against You, You only, have I sinned,
and done this evil in Your sight.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me hear joy and gladness;
that the bones which You have broken may rejoice.
Hide Your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.

Ps.51:1-19

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O LORD.
LORD, hear my voice;
let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.
If you, LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who shall stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be feared.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word do I hope.
My soul waits for the LORD more than they that watch for the morning:
I say, more than they that watch for the morning.
Let us hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy,
and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he shall redeem us from all our iniquities.

Ps.130:1-8

Hear the word of God's forgiving grace.

The minister then reads one of the texts that follow:

And the LORD passed by before Moses, and proclaimed,
'The LORD, The LORD God,
merciful and gracious, longsuffering,
and abundant in goodness and truth.'

Ex.34:6

Or

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
'Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.'

Matt.9:2

Or

The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deut.33:27

Or

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures:
he leads me beside the still waters,
he restores my soul.

Ps.23:1-6

Or

LORD, you keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you.

Is 26:3

Or

Jesus stood up and said, 'Has no one condemned you?'
She replied, 'No one, Lord.'

And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you;
go, and sin no more.'

Jn.8:10f.

Or

Therefore, being justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
By him we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,
and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Rom.5:1f.

Or

There is therefore now no condemnation
to them who are in Christ Jesus,
who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Rom.8:1f.

Or

Therefore if any one is in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away;
behold, all things are become new.

2 Cor.5:17

Or

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live;
yet not I, but Christ lives in me:
and the life that I now live in the flesh
I live by the faith of the Son of God,
who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Gal. 2.20-21

The minister then says:

To all those who in this way repent
and seek Jesus Christ for their salvation,
I pronounce the forgiveness of their sins
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Calvin

Or

Let everyone truly believe in Christ.
In his name I proclaim to you the forgiveness of all your sins,
and declare you to be loosed from them on earth,
so that you are loosed from them also in heaven.

Bucer

Or

To all those who truly acknowledge that they are sinners,
humble themselves before God,
and look to Jesus Christ for their salvation,
I declare the forgiveness of their sins,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

John Calvin

Know that you are forgiven,
and be at peace.

Amen.

Children's Talk

Hymn

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover our peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep Your word.
Open my eyes,
that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

Amen.

Scripture Readings

One of the following may be said.

The words of the LORD are pure words:
as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Ps. 12:6

Or

My word that goes out from my mouth

shall not return to me empty,
but shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isa 55:11

Or

Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Matt.4:4

Or

Heaven and earth shall pass away,
but my words shall not pass away.

Matt.24:35

Or

He who has an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev.2:7

Lessons are read from the Old Testament, the Epistle and the Gospel.

Sermon

Before the sermon, the minister says:

In the Name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

After the sermon is concluded, the minister says:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Or

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Sovereign,
the King of kings, and Lord of Lords;
who alone has immortality,
who dwells in unapproachable light,
whom no one has ever seen, nor can see:
to him be honour and power everlasting.

Amen.

A time of silent meditation may follow.

The Creed

The Apostle's Creed or another suitable creed or confession of faith is said.

Hymn

Intimations

The Peace

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Jn.14:27

Or

The LORD said to him,
"Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die."
Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it,
The LORD is Peace.

Jdg.6:23-24

Or

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week,
the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear,
Jesus came and stood among them and said to them,
'Peace be with you.'

Jn.20:19

Or

Christ himself is our peace.
He has made us one,
and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Eph.2:14

Or

Now may the LORD of peace himself
give you peace at all times in all ways.
The LORD be with you all.

2 Thess.3:16

Brothers and sisters, let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

The Offering

The minister says one of the following:

Blessed is he who considers the poor:
the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

Ps.41:1

Or

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and will call upon the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all his people,
Ps.116:17-18

Or

No one can serve two masters,
for either he will hate the one and love the other,
or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and money.

Matt.6:24

Or

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins.
And Jesus called his disciples to him and said to them,
'Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the offering.
For they all contributed out of their abundance,
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had,
all she had to live on.'

Mk.12:42-44

Or

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus,
how he himself said,
'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Ac.20:35

Or

As for the rich in this present age,
charge them not to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches,
but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.
They are to do good,
to be rich in good works,

to be generous and ready to share,
thus storing up treasure for themselves
as a good foundation for the future,
so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Tim. 6:17-20

Or

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,
and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Gal 6.10

Or

If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need,
yet closes his heart against him,
how does God's love abide in him?

1 John 3.17

Let us worship God with our tithes and offerings.

The offering is taken and thanks are given:

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty:
for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
and You are exalted as head above all.

1 Chron.29:11

Or

Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God forever.

The people may be seated.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

The minister says one of the following texts and then leads the congregation in a prayer of thanks.

I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart;
I will show forth all Your marvellous works.
I will be glad and rejoice in You;

I will sing praise to Your name, O most High.

Ps.9:1-2

Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the people.

1 Chron.16:8

Let us in silence, or aloud, give thanks for particular blessings we have received ...

The thanksgiving concludes with the words:

Blessing and honour
and thanksgiving and praise
more than we can utter,
more than we can understand
be to you, O holy and glorious Trinity:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
from all angels, all people, all creatures
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is sung, or else said in the following form:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

Matt.6:9-13

Prayers of Intercession and Petition are offered. The following are examples of such prayer, and as such need not be said verbatim.

First Prayer of Intercession and Petition

Holy Scripture calls on us to offer prayers
for nations, leaders and peoples.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul writes:

'I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and thanksgivings be made for all people,
for kings and all who are in high positions,
that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life,
godly and dignified in every way.'

1 Tim.2:1

O God, Creator and Preserver of the human race,
today we pray for people in every kind of need;
make your ways known on the earth,
your saving power among all nations.

We pray for world leaders:
may they exercise their power with restraint,
recognising that there is no authority that is not from you.
Keep them from abusing their power,
and give them the courage to seek peace and justice.

Lord we pray for countries divided by war, famine, disease,
terrorism, or godless religions,
we think especially of ...
May reconciliation and peace triumph in them.

We pray for our President, ...,
for our Government, and for all civil authorities:
may they rule in justice and truth.
Keep our leaders from corruption and greed.

We pray for all local authorities, for magistrates,
and for those who administer justice.
May they do their work faithfully and diligently.
Keep all who work in such positions from sloth,
and let them realise that one faithful person can make all the
difference.

We pray for those in our country ravaged by the scourge of AIDS.
Fill us with godly compassion for them;
give us new vigour to do what we can to alleviate their suffering.
Give comfort and hope to those who have the disease,
may they use their lives for the good of others,
and for the betterment of society.

Gracious Father, we pray for Your Church,

holy, catholic and apostolic,
which you love and for which you gave your Son.
Help us to serve the Church, but more,
help us to love the Church,
as Christ loves the Church and gives himself for her.
Guide and govern us,
Unite all who love the Lord Jesus in Spirit and in truth.
Keep your Church from division, heresy, and pettiness,
keep us from being conformed to the pattern of the world,
keep us pure, and holy, and zealous for good works.
Teach us to accept people who are different from us.
Keep us from discrimination, bigotry, racism,
and all such evils.

We pray for those who lead us,
for our Presbytery and Session,
for our Session Clerk and Treasurer,
for our Sunday school teachers,
for those who exercise other offices,
and for all those faithful workers
who in their own quiet and dignified way
do the work that no one else can do or is prepared to do.

Lord, we pray for the our families.
Protect them from danger and from temptation.
We pray for our spouses and for our children.
May they learn that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
We pray for our parents and relatives:
teach us to honour and love them.

We plead for those who do not know the truth of the Gospel,
for those who seek You,
but have not yet found You.
Lord, lead them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We commend to your fatherly goodness
all those who are afflicted and distressed,
those who are sick, lonely, or depressed,
those who are trapped by addictions or vice.
In particular we lift before you ...

Comfort and relieve these in their need,
give them patience in their sufferings,

and show them a way through their troubles.
Help them to understand that they share in the sufferings of Christ.
And bring healing, if that is your will.

Lord, we remember now those who have gone before us
in the peace of Christ,
your saints,
our loved-ones.
Precious in your sight is the death of your saints.
We give you praise for them,
for their faithfulness,
and we remember them now in our hearts ...

All this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake.

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

Second Prayer of Intercession and Petition

Remember, Lord,
your one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
redeemed by the blood of your Christ.
Reveal its unity, guard its faith,
and preserve it in peace.
Remember our Presbytery and our Session
and all who minister in your Church.
Remember all your people,
and all who seek your truth.
Remember...
Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ,
and those whose faith is known to you alone;
bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.
And grant that we may find our inheritance
with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
with the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and all the saints
who have found favour with you in ages past.
We praise you in union with them

and give you glory
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Third Prayer of Intercession and Petition

O Lord, grant us to greet the coming week in peace.
Help us in all things to rely on Your Holy will.
In every hour of the day reveal Your will to us.
Bless our dealings with all who surround us.
Teach us to treat all who come to us with peace of soul,
and with the firm conviction that Your will governs all.
In all our deeds and words guide our thoughts and feelings.
In unforeseen events, let us not forget that all are sent by You.
Teach us to act firmly and wisely,
without embittering and embarrassing others.
Give us strength to bear the fatigue of this coming week
with all that it shall bring.
Direct our will, teach us to pray, and You, O Christ, pray in us.
Amen.

Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow

The prayers of intercession conclude with:

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace,
according to Your word.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
which You have prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of Your people Israel.

Lk.2:29-33

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever.
Amen.

Hymn

Commission

The minister dismisses the congregation with a charge such as one of the following:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD :
And You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Deut.6:4-5

Or

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today,
that I have set before you life and death,
blessing and curse.
Therefore choose life,
that you and your family may live.

Deut.30:19

Or

I am the LORD that brings you up out of bondage,
to be your God:
you shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

Lev.11:45

Or

Whatever you wish that others would do to you,
do also to them,
for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matt.7:12

Or

You did not choose me, but I chose you
and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit
and that your fruit should abide,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name,
he may give it to you.

Jn.15:16

Or

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

1 Cor.15:58

Or

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, help the suffering;

honour all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessing

The LORD bless you, and keep you:
The LORD make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you:
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
'And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel;
and I will bless them.'

Num.6:24-27

Or

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

2 Cor.13:14

Amen.

Or

Now may the God of peace
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good
that you may do his will,
working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Heb.13:20-21

Amen.

Or

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling,
and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory
with exceeding joy,
To the only wise God our Saviour,
be glory and majesty,
dominion and power,
both now and for ever.

Amen.