

A Communion Liturgy for the beginning of Lent



Call to Worship (Psalm 105:1-5, 8)O

give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, proclaim his deeds
among the peoples!

**All: Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful
works!**

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the
LORD rejoice!

**All: Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his presence
continually!**

Remember the wonderful works that he has done, his
miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

**All: He is mindful of his covenant for ever, of the word that
he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

Introduction

Brothers and sisters in Christ:
since early days Christians have observed with great
devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection
and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.
By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart
the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness
proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in
devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the
observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and
repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by
reading and meditating on God's holy word.

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.
And all repeat

**All: Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept.

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen Readings

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Confession

Before you, Jesus Christ, we admit how and where
we have underestimated our influence,
letting our words or silences hurt,
abusing trust, betraying confidences.

Lord, have mercy;

Christ have mercy.

Before you, Jesus Christ, we admit how and where
we have made a show of our religion,
attracting more attention to us, and less to you.

Lord, have mercy;

Christ have mercy.

Before you, Jesus Christ, we admit to where
in our lives a vague interest
has become a dangerous passion,

and we are not sure what to do
or whether we are still in control.

Lord, have mercy;

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, if we have looked
or longed for an easier gospel,

a lighter cross, a less demanding saviour, then turn
our eyes and avert our longing from what we want
to choose to the One who has chosen us.

Forgive our unfaithfulness,
and, for our better living,
give us not the remedy we desire tomorrow,
but the grace you offer today.

We ask this for your love's sake.

Amen

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **All: and also
with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. **Sacrament**

of Communion

Almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour
of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and saying:

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.

On the night our Lord Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it. Then he said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this as a means of remembering me."

In the same manner 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.

All: O Lord, forgive our forgetting. Remember us, O Lord, as we remember you. For as you remember, we have hope!

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen Sharing of Bread and **Wine**

The Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that, when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us so we and all your children shall be free and the

whole earth live to praise you name, through Christ our Lord.

Lord, through this communion may our Lenten penance give you glory and bring us your protection. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen

Sending out

Go from this place,
in the peace of Christ who died to save you.

Seek to make the world a better place
and love the Lord your God
with all your heart and mind and strength.

Amen.