
THE LORD'S SUPPER ACCORDING TO THE 1928 BCP

UNDERSTANDING OUR SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

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FROM LIVING ROOM



TO DINING ROOM



AT GOD'S HOUSE

ALL GOOD

Just like after having gone over to a family members house for a meal, God gives us one more affirmation of his love. Like our grandmother reaching down to send us home reassured of her love for us by one last kiss, so **God reassures us of his love for us by his servant telling us to “depart in peace”** (meaning we can leave knowing that God likes us and holds nothing against us). And it is that peace with God that allows us to experience the true, inner peace of the final blessing.

THE FINAL BLESSING

Priest: Now, receive the Lord’s blessing:

With the people kneeling, the priest faces the people and blesses them with these or similar words:

The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord (*Phil.4:7*); And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

THE CLOSING SONG

The people stand and a closing hymn is sung. The Cross then leads the recession out. Just as the Cross led us into the Presence of God, so also does it lead us back out into the world where the Lord is sending us to do the work of ministry.

OVERJOYED ABOUT WHO GOD IS

Just as the first disciples sang a hymn after being fed by their Lord, so we lift our voices in highest praise by singing, or saying, this special canticle.

GLORY BE TO GOD

Priest: GLORY be to God on high,

All: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

SAYING OUR GOODBYES

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit. (2Tim.4:22; cf. Philem.25)

Priest: (If the *Gloria in Excelsis* was said:) The Mass has ended;
you may depart in peace.

-or-

(If the *Gloria in Excelsis* was not said) Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A MEAL AT GOD'S HOUSE

When it comes to understanding what we do at church, the only thing that we need to understand is that we have been invited by God to come to his house for a very special meal. So, everything we do is just like having dinner at a close family member's house where we first sit down to talk about what is new and important and then get up to go to the table to eat.

JESUS' SPECIAL PROMISES

Jesus said two things that make us look forward to coming together with the church every Lord's Day. First, he said, **"Wherever two or three people come together in my name, I am there, right among you"** (*Matt.18:20, J. B. Phillips Translation*).

Then he said, **"Whoever comes to my special meal, which comes down from heaven, will have a special relationship with me and I will take them to heaven when it's time"** (cf. *Jhn.6:50-58*).



THE PEOPLE THAT WE SEE THERE

To help our meal with God go smoothly, there are servants in God's house who will welcome us and help us to know what to do and when to do it (*They are our bishops, priests, deacons, deaconesses, choir, acolytes, lay readers, ushers, and greeters*). These servants will also be the people who will help set the Table when it is time for us to eat.

I was happy when they said, "Let us go to the House of the Lord!"



The following parts of our Service (*The Introit, Collect, Epistle and Gospel Readings*) change according to the day, and/or season. The Introit can be found printed in our Worship Bulletin. The Collect and Readings can be found in the Book of Common Prayer (pp.90-269).



Then, after the people have received Holy Communion and the priest has reset the Altar, everyone joins together in praying a prayer expressing their heart felt thanks for what God has done for them throughout the service.

SAYING THANK YOU

After everyone has eaten, we make sure to tell God "thank you" for this wonderfully, special meal.

We also ask that the meal we just shared with him would transform us and empower us as he designed it to.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

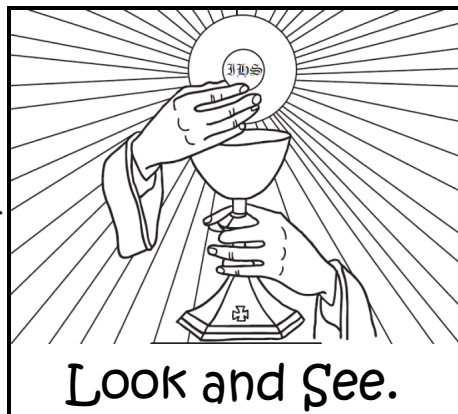
Priest: Let us pray.

All: **A**LMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness toward us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; ^(1Cor.10:16-17) and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, ^(Tit.3:7) by the merits of His most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; ^(Eph.2:10; Tit.2:14) through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

The priest holds the Host over the Chalice, turns to the people and proclaims:

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him who taketh away the sins of the world.



DRAWING NEAR TO OUR GOD

Priest: Lord, I am not worthy
that thou shouldest come under my roof;

**All: But speak the word only,
and my soul shall be healed. (Said Three Times)**

The priest and assistant(s) will then receive their communion, and then the priest will turn and say,

Priest: The gifts of God, for the people of God.

The priest may also say,

Taste and see that the Lord is good. *(Ps.34:8)*

The priest may also say,


Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us
keep the feast. *(1Cor.5:7-8)*

The People then approach the Altar.

WE ARE WHAT WE EAT

When he was on earth Jesus told us that if we eat his
Flesh [the Bread] and drink his Blood [the Wine] he would
pour his life into us *(Jhn.6:53-54)*. As he does this, we are
empowered to be his presence in the world, and in fact the
Bible calls the Church the body of Christ.

ENTRANCE SONG & GETTING READY

Priest: In the Name of the 
Father, and of the Son, and
of the Holy Ghost. *(Matt.18:20)*

All: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with
you.

**People: And with thy
spirit.** *(2Tim.4:22; cf. Philem.25)*

COMING TOGETHER

When we first arrive,
God's servants will greet
us in the Name of the
Lord, because Jesus prom-
ised us that whenever we
gather in his Name he
would come and join us.

PRAYER TO BE CLEAN

GETTING CLEANED UP

Now the same way that we often
have to get cleaned up as soon as
we come in from being out in the
yard, so we ask God to help us
get cleaned up from being out in
the world. And as we ask him to
do so, we remind ourselves what
really needs to be cleaned are
our hearts *(cf.Lk.6:45)*.

Priest: Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God,
unto whom all hearts
are open, all desires
known, and from
whom no secrets are
hid: cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of
thy Holy Spirit, that
we may perfectly love

thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name. Through
Christ our Lord. *(see 1Kng.8:39; Ps.24:3-5; Matt.15:19; Heb.10:22)*

People: Amen

AN ENTRANCE PRAYER

See Worship Bulletin for Introit (Entrance Prayer)

THE DIRT OF THE WORLD

We can be completely unaware of, or forget, how dirty we can get from being out in the world, but that does not change the fact of our needing to be rinsed off. Either the Ten Commandments or Jesus' Summary of the Law will be read in order to help us see where we are dirty.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Priest: GOD spake these words, and said:

I am the LORD thy God; Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

***People:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.** (see 1Kng.8:57-58; Ps.119:36; Ezk.36:37)

Priest: Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

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

Priest: Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain.

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

Priest: Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath-day.

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

Priest: Honour thy father and thy mother.

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

Priest: Thou shalt do no murder.

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


Priest: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.** (2Tim.4:22; cf. Philem.25)

ASKING TO COME TO THE TABLE

Then shall the Priest, kneeling down at the Lord's Table, join in prayer with all those who shall receive the Holy Communion saying the following prayer:

All:  We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. (Dan.9:18b) We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. (Matt.15:27) But thou are they same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. (see Jhn.6:50-57) Amen.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

Priest: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

***All:* Have mercy upon us.**

Priest: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

***All:* Have mercy upon us.**

Priest: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

***All:* Grant us thy peace.**

THE MEAL IS SERVED

Everyone is now invited to come and eat, but it is very important that we understand how special this meal is. God's servant will turn and remind us of its importance by telling us to look at the Lamb of God, the Body of Christ. If you do not discern in the Bread and Wine the Body of Christ, it is best that you do not eat it. If you would like to learn about it, just ask any of God's servants.

A Prayer for the Acceptance of the Offering

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by † whom, and with † whom, in the † unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

All: Amen.

Priest: And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, ^(Matt. 6:9-13; Lk. 11:2-4) we are bold to say:

GREETING “OUR FATHER”

Right before we draw near to the Lord’s Table as the family of God, we pray to God as Jesus taught us: as “Our Father.”

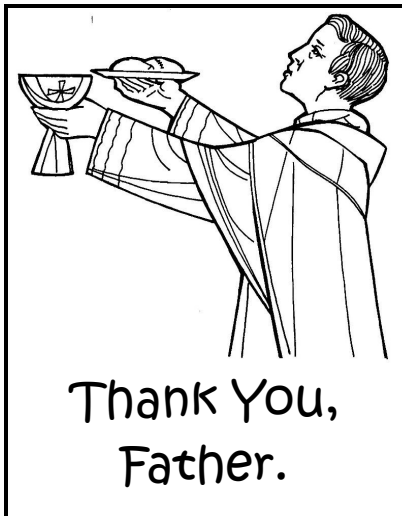
us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fracture

After praying a prayer silently, the priest declares,

DIVIDING UP THE MEAL

God servant then breaks up the Bread so that it can be passed out for the family to eat. And in response we sing, or say, a song to Jesus as “the Lamb of God.”



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

Priest: Thou shalt not steal.

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

Priest: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

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

Priest: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass [donkey], nor any thing that is his.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these laws in our hearts, we beseech thee. ^(Jer. 31:33)

The priest then may say the Summary of the Law.

Who can stand in the Lord’s house?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart.



SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Priest: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

GOD'S MERCY

The only way for us to be clean in the sight of God is for him to clean us by his mercy. We can never do everything we are supposed, but thanks to everything Jesus has done for us, we only have to admit what we have done wrong and ask for his mercy. He is our waiting Father, who no matter what we have done or where we have gone, is always looking for us to come home to him. The only thing that can separate us from God's love is ourselves.

THE KYRIE ELEISON

Priest: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Priest: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Priest then may pray the following Collect, or move directly to the Introit.

Priest: O ALMIGHTY Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that, through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All: Ame

The Oblation

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same. ^(Eph.1:3)

The Invocation

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood. ^(cf. Jhn.6:55)

A Prayer for the Benefits of the Offering

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; ^(Ps.50:14; Heb.13:15) most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, ^(Rom.3:25) we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

A Prayer for the Communicants

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice unto thee; ^(Rom.12:1; 1Cor.6:20) humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, ^(1Cor.11:27) be † filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

ASKING THE BLESSING

--the people kneel--

Priest: **A**ll glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; (Eph.1:7; Rom.8:32) who made there, by his one † oblation of † himself once † offered, a full, Perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world, (Heb.7:27; 9:28; 10:10-14) and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again. (Matt.26:26-28; Mrk.14:22-24; Lk.22:15-20; cf. 1Cor.11:23-25)

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

Jesus said, "Do this
in remembrance
of me."



**"Take, eat, This is my
Body,
which is given for you;
Do this in
remembrance of me."**

Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink ye all of this; for

**This is my Blood of the
New Testament,
which is shed for you,
and for many,
for the remission of
sins;
Do this, as oft as ye
shall drink it,
in remembrance of
me."**

Jesus washes his people clean.



“COLLECT”ING THE FAMILY

After being cleansed by our Lord’s mercy we collect ourselves together with a prayer called the “collect.” With this prayer we come together as one family making a single request of God based upon what he has revealed about himself. It is just like how we ask our parents for help since they are our parents after all.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

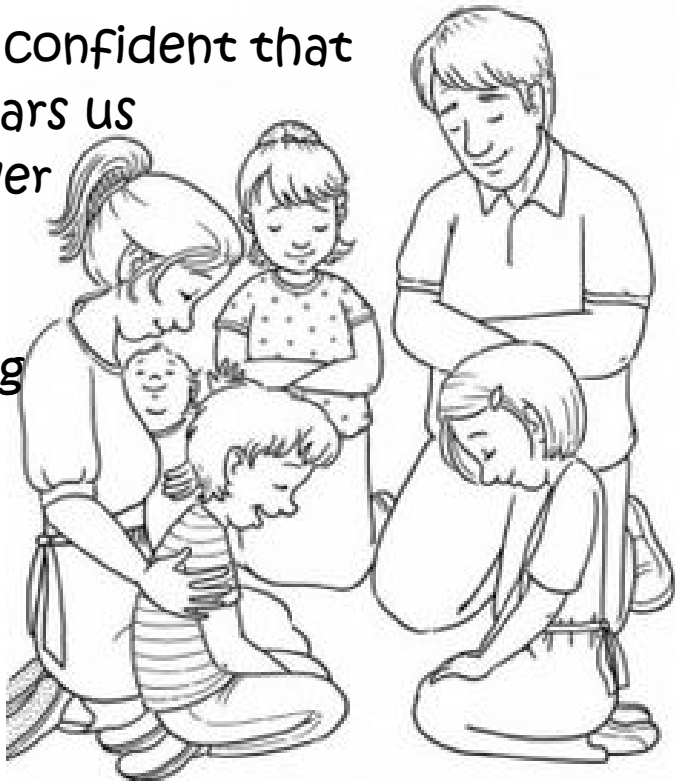
Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy Spirit. (2Tim.4:22; cf. Philem.25)

Priest: Let us pray.

See BCP for Collect

We are confident that
God hears us
whenever
we ask
for
anything
that
pleases
him.



We Give
Thanks.

Priest: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto to thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everliving God. (Ps.92:1; 29:2; Rev.19:5-6)

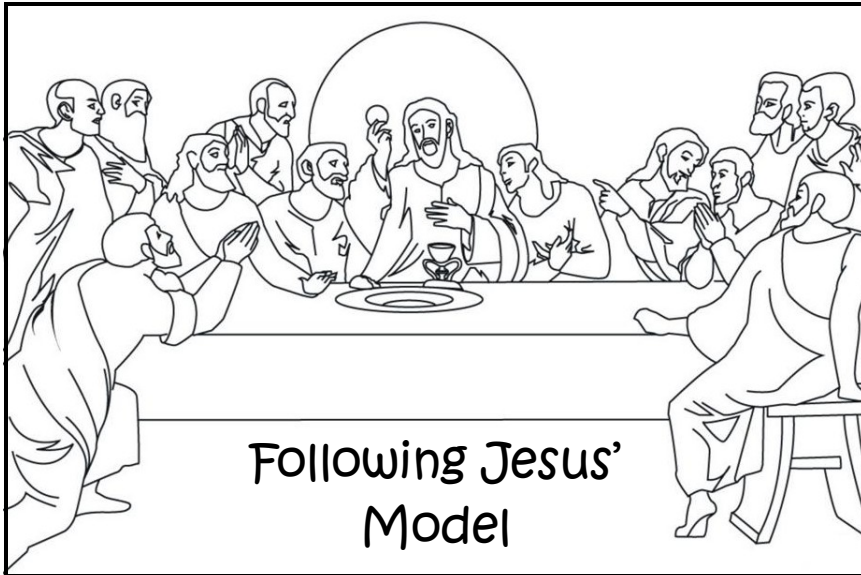
Here, a Proper Preface is inserted and prayed—one that changes according to the day or season. See BCP pp.77-79 for Prefaces.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying, (Rev.7:9-12; Heb.12:22-24)

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of host,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory! (Isa.6:3)
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

Priest: Blessed is he that cometh
In the Name of the Lord. (Ps.118:26)

All: Hosanna in the Highest. (Matt.21:9)



Following Jesus' Model

BEGINNING OF THE CELEBRATION

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit. (2Tim.4:22; cf. Philem.25)

Priest: Lift up your hearts. (Lam.3:41)

People: We lift them up to the Lord. (Ps.25:1)

Priest: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. (Ps.118:1)

People: It is meet and right so to do.

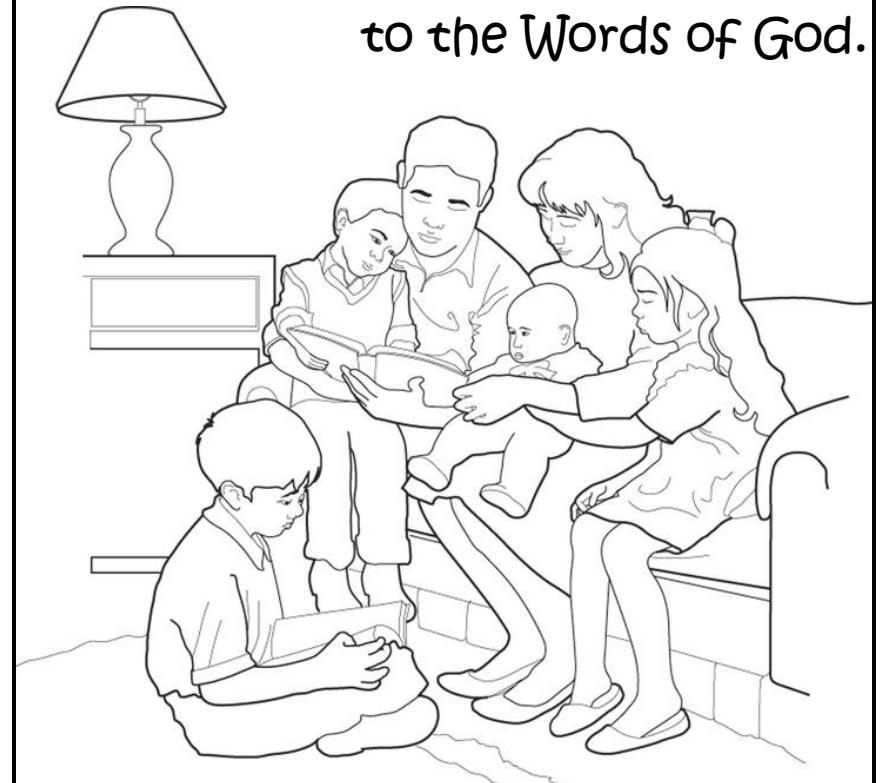
GIVING THANKS & SAYING GRACE

With God's fresh forgiveness still ringing in our ears, we turn with thanksgiving to come and eat. But just as with any meal, before we can eat, we must give thanks and ask for God's blessing. Granted, this thanksgiving prayer is longer than any of the one we say at home, but it has to be. In this blessing we thank God not only for this very special meal, but also for all that he has promised to do through it.

A LIVING ROOM CHAT

After we have been collected together we sit down to talk about family business. While the seats we use are probably not as comfortable as our couches at home, what we do now is much like sitting in the living room before we eat to discuss various things. Sometimes we talk about things we should do since we are a part of our family, sometimes we talk about members of our family who have already gone to heaven, but whatever we discuss will be inspired by the Bible – our family story.

Commit yourselves wholeheartedly
to the Words of God.



THE EPISTLE READING

Lay Reader: The Epistle is written in the _____ Chapter of _____, beginning at the _____ Verse.

Lay Reader: Hear Endeth the Epistle.

See BCP for Epistle Reading

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL READING

Priest: The Holy Gospel is written in the _____ Chapter of _____, beginning at the _____ Verse.

All: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

See BCP for Gospel Reading

Priest: Here endeth today's reading of Christ's most Holy Gospel.

All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

OUR FAMILY BOND

After reading from these two parts of the Bible, we like to remind ourselves of what makes us family – our faith.

So, we summarize whom we put our trust in to save us from sin, death, and the grave, and this summary also serves as a summation of everything that our Bible teaches us about God and his plan for our salvation.



ENCOURAGING WORDS

The Priest then adds the following:

Priest: Hear what comfortable words our Savior Christ saith unto all who truly turn to Him:

“COME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.” [Matthew 11.28](#)

“So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” [John 3:16](#)

“Hear also what Saint Paul saith: This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” [1 Timothy 1.15](#)

“Hear also what Saint John saith: If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation of our Sins.”

[1 John 2.1,2](#)

ON RECEIVING COMMUNION

All who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and have been baptized into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are welcome to come forward to receive Holy Communion. You may either drink from the common cup or dip your wafer into the wine.

If you have not come to faith in Christ Jesus yet, or have not yet been baptized, please feel free to come forward for a blessing. To do so, simply cross your arms across your chest when you come to the communion rail.

All: ALMIGHTY
God, Father of
our Lord Jesus
Christ, Maker of
all things, Judge
of all men; (Act.17:24-31; Eccl.3:17)

We
 acknowledge and
 bewail our
 manifold sins and
 wickedness, (Isa.59:12)
 Which we, from
 time to time, most
 grievously have
 committed, (Dan.9:5)
 By thought, word,

and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, (Ps.51:4) Provoking most
 justly thy wrath and indignation against us. (Rom.2:8-9) We do
 earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our
 misdoings, (Ps.38:18; cf 2Cor.7:10) The remembrance of them is grievous
 unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. (Ps.38:4; 32:3-5) Have
 mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
(Ps.51:1) For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, (1Jhn.2:12) Forgive
 us all that is past, And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve
 and please thee In newness of life, (Rom.6:4,6,13) To the honour and
 glory of thy Name: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest alone stands and pronounces the Absolution:

Priest: **A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great
 mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins (Dan.9:9) to all those who
 with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, (Joel2:12-14; Ezk.18:30-32)
 Have mercy upon you; † pardon and deliver you from all your
 sins; (Jer.33:8; Isa.30:18) confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; (Col.1:10-11; Eph.3:16)
 and bring you to everlasting life, (Rom.6:22) through Jesus
 Christ our Lord. Amen.



OUR FAMILY BELIEFS (NICENE)

Priest: I BELIEVE in one God (Deut.6:4)

Now the people join in with the priest making their profession of faith.

(In God the Father, the Creator)

All: The Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: (Ps.146:5-6)

(In God the Son, the Redeemer)

And in one Lord **(bow head)** Jesus Christ, (1Cor.8:6) the only
 begotten Son of God; (Jhn.3:16) Begotten of his Father before all
 worlds, (Jhn.17:5) God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very
 God; (Jhn.1:1; Col.1:15; Heb.1:3; Tit.2:13) Begotten not made; Being of one
 substance with the Father; (Jhn.1:14,18; 10:30) By whom all things
 were made: (Jhn.1:3; Col.1:16-17) Who for us men and for our salvation
(Jhn.3:17) came down from heaven, (Jhn.3:13; 6:38-40) **(here genuflect)** And
 was incarnate (Jhn.1:14) by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
 And was made Man: (Matt.1:20-25; Lk.126-35) **(here rise)**
 And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; (Jhn.19:16-19) He
 suffered (1Pet.4:1) and was buried: (Mrk.15:43,46) and the third day he
 rose again according to the Scriptures: (1Cor.15:3-4) And ascended
 into heaven, (Act.1:9-11) And sitteth on the right hand of the
 Father: (Mrk.16:19) And he shall come again, with glory, to judge
 both the quick and the dead; (2Tim.4:1) Whose kingdom shall have
 no end. (Rev.11:15)

(In God the Spirit, the Sanctifier)

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, (2Cor.3:17) and
 Giver of Life, (2Cor.3:6) Who proceedeth from the Father and the
 Son; (Jhn.15:26) Who with the Father and the Son together is
 worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: (2Pet.1:21; Act.28:25)

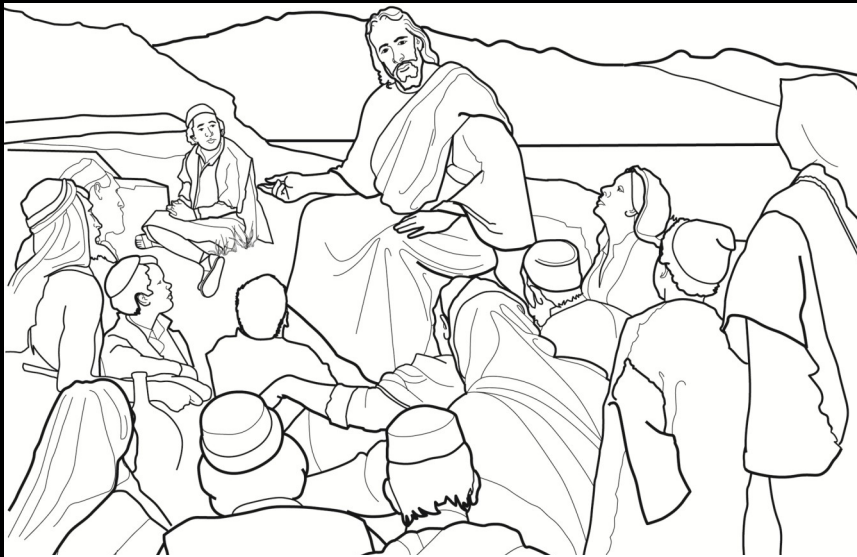
(In the Church, where salvation is found)

And I believe one Holy Catholic and Apostolic
 Church: (Heb.12:23; Eph.2:19-20, 4:4-6) I acknowledge one Baptism for the
 remission of sins: (Eph.4:5; Act.2:38; Mrk.16:16) and I look for the
 Resurrection of the dead: (1Cor.15:52-53) And the life † of
 the world to come. (Jhn.5:28-29; Matt.25:46; Heb.6:5) Amen.

WRAPPING UP THE CONVERSATION

At this point, one of the servants of the church will stop to make sure we have understood everything we have read and discussed thus far in the service. He may also inform us of any other important information about church celebrations to come.

THE NOTICES AND SERMON



Jesus has the words that give
eternal life.

GIVING BACK TO GOD

Following the Sermon or Other Instruction the Priest will return to the center of the Altar, offering and placing on the Altar the Bread and Wine which the worshippers have provided by their offerings.

The people remain seated, and a hymn may be sung. If there is no hymn then any of the verses found on BCP pp.72-73 may be read.

MAKING THINGS RIGHT

Another thing that we do, unfortunately, when we get together is apologize to the people we might have hurt by our words or actions (including God). This is one more way that we show them that we love them and think highly of them.

Many times, when it comes to admitting what we have done wrong to someone, we do not know how to start, so we are invited to do so at this time. And as we confess these things we do so hoping to hear words of forgiveness so that we can know that everything is all right. This is, of course, what we are promised in the Scriptures (1Jhn.1:9), so God's servant will stand up, after we have prayed, to assure us of the fact that we are forgiven and God loves us. Furthermore, it is this forgiveness that allows us to forgive others, and truly enjoy a meal with the people around us.

INVITATION AND CONFESSION

Priest: **W**E who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, (Act.3:19) and are in love and charity with your neighbors, (Matt.5:23-24) and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; (1Thess.4:1-8; 1Jhn.2:6; Eccl.12:13) Draw near with faith, (Heb.10:22) and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling. (1Jhn.1:9; Ps.95:6)

The people join with the priest in praying the following General Confession:

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops, and other clergy, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, ^(2Thess.3:1; 1Tim.4:12) set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. ^(1Tim.4:16; 2Tim.2:15; Act.20:28)

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word, ^(Jms.1:21) truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. ^(Lk.1:74-75)

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble*, sorrow*, need*, sickness*, or any other adversity*. ^(2Cor.1:3-4)

And we also bless thy holy † Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, ^(Rev.7:13-17) and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. ^(Heb.6:12; Col.1:12)

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ^(1Tim.2:5; 1Jhn.2:1)

All: Amen.

Pray for all people
and ask God to help
them.



GETTING THE DINING ROOM READY

By this time in our service, it is time to eat so God's servants will begin to set the Table. While they set the Table everyone usually sings a song, and puts a collection together to be able to give God something in response to him giving us this meal.

When the servers have prepared the Table, we will see a plate and a cup like on any other table before a person eats, but unlike any other place setting this plate and cup hold a very important meal. They hold the Bread and Wine for communing with God.

This Communion with God is possible because of our Lord's Jesus' sacrifice for us – the giving of his Body and Blood to make us one with God. This is why we refer to our Table as an Altar; because, in this Thanksgiving meal we recall his Sacrifice for us (just as Jesus told us to).

When Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciple the night before he was betrayed and handed over to be murdered, he commanded them, as well as all who would follow him later, to have this meal in order to remember him (who he was, who he is, and what he has done for us). So, if we want to know Jesus, to meet Jesus, we must come to where he has promised to be found.

It really is important for us to understand that this small meal is far more than it seems. When Jesus instituted this meal he said that this bread and wine was his very Body and Blood. This is why when we go forward to get our part of the meal, the server will say, "The Body of our Lord..." and "The Blood of our Lord..."

The Priest then receives the Tithes and Offerings, elevates them to the Lord, and all join together singing:

The Lord prepares a feast for us.



SINGING A SONG OF THANKFULNESS

When everything has been set and we are ready to start moving toward the Table, we like to sing a short song about how God has made all this possible.

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Priest: All things come of Thee, O Lord,

All: And of Thine own have we given thee. ^(1Chr.29:14)

PRAYING FOR OUR FAMILY

14 (BCP p.73)

FAMILY LOVE AND CONCERN

One of the things that makes a family a family is their love and concern for one another, and this is no different in our Church family. Now, in our Church family the way we show our concern for one another is to pray for them. We pray for our whole family: for our spiritual brothers and sisters in government and political office, for those who help keep up our churches, and everyone who has been baptized. Then we pray especially for those of our family who are in trouble, sad, in need, sick, or especially needing God's help. After that we pray for all our loved ones who have already gone to heaven, asking that God would continue to use them for his glory and that he would help us be able to see them again.

Priest: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church:

ALmighty and everliving God, ^(Rev.4:8) who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; ^(1Tim.2:1) We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our (alms and) oblations, ^(Ps.20:1,3) and to receive these our prayers, ^(Ps.6:9) which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: ^(Eph.4:1-4 & Jhn.17:17,20-21) And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. ^(1Cor.1:10; Phi.2:1-3)

We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian Rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue. ^(see 1Pet.2:13-14; Rom.13:3-4)

15 (BCP p.74)