

## EASTER SUNDAY COMMUNION

This festive Easter Sunday communion service celebrates the joy of resurrection and emphasizes the living presence of Christ among us, who promises new life to all. A white cloth-covered table lavishly spread with loaves of raised yeast bread (such as Russian *paska*) and clear glass goblets can signify the joy of meeting the risen Christ.

### Opening Words

Jesus our Lord stands among us in risen power!  
Let our gathering at this table be a hallowed hour.  
(adapted from #25, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*)

### Invitation to Communion

As Mary Magdalene met the Risen Lord on Easter morning,  
her fear and sorrow were turned to joy.  
We too are invited to turn our faces toward Christ,  
who joins us wherever we are – in sorrow or fear or joy.  
Around this table, in the breaking of bread,  
Jesus longs to reveal himself as the living Lord,  
the resurrected Christ,  
victor over sorrow and sin and death.  
Welcome to the table of our Risen Lord!  
If you are seeking, come with open hands;  
If you are troubled, come with expectant hope;  
If you desire to meet Christ, come with joy.  
Come and receive the gift of new life!

### Words of Institution and Prayer of Thanksgiving

In the week just past,  
we have remembered our Lord's suffering and death,  
how on the night he was betrayed he took a loaf of bread,  
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,  
"This is my body that is for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."  
In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying,  
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

We also remember that in the days after his resurrection,  
Jesus often ate with his disciples,  
speaking peace to them,  
offering comfort,  
and promising them new life.

God of life and hope,  
on this Easter Sunday, we give thanks for the resurrection of Jesus Christ;  
we give thanks for the promise that as we eat and drink,  
our lives are made new.  
Bless these gifts of bread and wine;  
let them be a foretaste of eternal joy with you.  
We pray in the name of the Risen One, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN

### **Distribution**

*Beloved, eat the bread of life!*  
*Beloved, drink the goodness of the Lord!*

While the bread and cup are offered, the congregation may sing songs of Easter joy:

*Hymnal: A Worship Book*

272 Christ is risen! Shout hosanna

472 I am the Bread of life

475 Become to us the living bread

*Sing the Journey*

86 Taste and see

88 Hallelujah! We sing your praises

### **Closing Prayer**

*All* **O living Christ,**  
**you have come to us in the glory of your risen power;**  
**you have come to us in the humility of your wondrous love.**  
**Now let new life course through our veins,**  
**new love bind us together,**  
**and new vision spur us on to follow you forever.**  
**Even so, come Lord Jesus. AMEN**  
(adapted from #676, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*)

## EASTER 3 COMMUNION

*This service is based on the Didache, a first-century document from the church in Syria, which presented guidelines for early Christian life and worship. Other than the brief mention of the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11, this work is the oldest and most complete description of how the early church celebrated Communion.*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 God thanks and praise**

Almighty God, you did create all things and have given both meat and drink for us to enjoy, that we might give thanks unto you, but to us you have also given spiritual meat and drink and life everlasting, through your Son Jesus the Christ.

**By your power you raised Jesus from death to life.**

**Remember, Lord, your Church, to redeem it from this world,  
to perfect it in your love, and gather it together from the four winds,  
even that which has been made holy for your kingdom  
which you have prepared for it;  
for thine is the kingdom and the glory for ever.**

Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful song, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful in every time and place, who forever sing your praise.

Hymn        # 400 HWB *Santo, santo, santo* or #15 SJ *Santo (Holy)*

### Words of Institution

When the hour came, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this and remember me."

**We thank you, God, for the life and knowledge which you have  
made known unto us through Jesus your Son; to you be the glory forever.**

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

**We thank you, our God, for the holy vine, David, which you have made  
known to us through Jesus Christ your Son; to you be the glory forever.**

Let us pray...

As this broken bread was once scattered on the mountains,  
and after it had been brought together as one,  
so may the Church be gathered together  
from the ends of the earth unto your kingdom;  
by your Spirit bring us into unity with Christ,  
with each other and with our world  
as a sign of your presence and your reign  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast together at the heavenly banquet. Amen.

We come with gratitude to your table and we pray with confidence the  
prayer that Jesus taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

#### Passing the Peace

After the resurrection Jesus appeared to the disciples and greeted them, saying,  
"Peace be with you." As people of the new covenant, we share that greeting with  
each other:

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### Invitation

Come to the table, not because you must, but because you may.  
Come not to confirm your righteousness, but because you love Jesus the Christ,  
and desire to be his true disciple.  
Come not because you are strong, but because you are weak.  
Come not because you have claims on kingdom rewards, but in your frailty.  
Come as inheritors of the faithfulness of the God of Israel.  
Come as people of the new covenant in Christ.  
Come to the table to receive and to be the Body of Christ.

#### Blessing after sharing the supper

Bless us, O Lord Our God, King of the Universe,  
you have brought forth the bread and wine from the earth.  
Bless us now as your covenant people nourished by your Word and Table  
to go into the world filled with faith, hope, and love.  
Our Lord, come. Maranatha! Amen.