

# The Lord's Supper: An Ecumenical Pattern

Adapted from: Baptist Union of Great Britain, *Gathering for Worship: Patterns and Prayers for the Community of Disciples* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2005), pp.22-29.

*There are PowerPoint slides to use with this pattern should the Minister or other leading communion wish to use it to enable the congregation to follow and respond accordingly.*

*This pattern draws on prayers from the wider church, and follows a service of worship around the word – including singing, praying, the reading of scripture and the preaching of the Word. The minister may now be joined at the table by the deacons or whoever is appointed to share in the distribution of the bread and the wine.*

## Invitation to the Table

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;  
if you hear my voice and open the door,  
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.  
*Revelation 3.20*

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,  
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.  
Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,  
but because you need mercy and help.  
Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.  
Come, because he loves you and gave himself for you.  
Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

## Preparation

*Scripture sentences such as the following may be read*

'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'  
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
Let us test and examine our ways,  
and return to the Lord.  
Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands  
to God in heaven.  
*Lamentations 3.24–25, 40–41*

## Confession

*There may follow a prayer of confession, if one has not been offered earlier, or a prayer of preparation, such as*

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.**

## The Peace

*If not received earlier, new members may now be welcomed and received with the hand of fellowship and prayer. At this point a pastoral prayer may be offered for the needs of the fellowship. The minister may then invite the members of the congregation to greet one another with a sign of peace and with words such as*

Christ is our peace.  
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

## Institution

*The minister may lift, or point to, the bread and the wine when they are mentioned in the words of institution*

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:  
For I received from the Lord  
what I also handed on to you,  
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed  
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 he took the cup also, 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 Corinthians 11.23–26*

## Thanksgiving

*One of the following prayers may be offered, or extempore prayer which should include THANKSGIVING for all God has done in creation and redemption and for bread and wine which focus this redemption in the death and resurrection of Jesus*

*Christ 'until he comes'. The prayer should end with an INVOCATION, calling on the Spirit to transform and empower God's people, as they gather and receive bread and wine, equipping them for service.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, God of peace and justice,  
that you have made all things

to find their unity with you and in you.

For you are the life and energy of all that is  
and you are making all things new.

Without you,

meaning is lost and we are estranged.

The stars and galaxies,  
the waters and ocean-depths,  
sing your praise.

Forest and mountain,  
yes, even the desert –  
all proclaim your splendour.

With all creation we join  
the hymn of angels and archangels,  
and all your people of every time and place  
as we sing:

**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.**

In you is our health and our wholeness,  
the gift of the one who emptied himself.

We give you thanks for Jesus,  
the wounded healer,

who by his words and deeds  
brings new life to all creation.

We praise you

for his obedience even to the cross,  
where he made death the gateway to glory.

We praise you that you raised him to new life  
and set him on high to pray for us  
and to bring all things into union with you.

At table with his friends,  
he took bread and gave thanks,  
he broke it and shared it with them.

'Take, eat,' he said, 'to remember me.'  
And after supper,  
he took the cup of wine,  
he gave thanks and shared it with them.  
'Drink it, all of you,' he said, 'to remember me.'  
So we take these gifts of bread and wine,  
give thanks, and share them.  
Come, Holy Spirit;  
take the things and people of earth  
and make of them  
signs of the peace Christ brings  
by his body and blood.  
So that we, feeding on him  
and trusting in him alone,  
may be led from death to that life  
where strife and envy,  
falsehood and pride are ended  
in the holy communion  
of your eternal kingdom.  
These things we ask,  
in and with and through our Saviour Jesus, the Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Holy things for holy people:  
the gift and salvation of God.

*The Lord's Prayer may be said here.*

**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.**

## **The Breaking of Bread**

*The bread may now be lifted and broken with the words*

When we break the bread,  
is it not a means of sharing in the body of Christ?

Because there is one loaf,  
we, though many, are one body;  
for it is one loaf of which we all partake.  
*1 Corinthians 10.16f.*

## Sharing the Bread

*When the minister has broken the bread and placed a portion on each plate, the bread shall be distributed with words such as*

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you  
and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

## The Lifting of the Cup

*The cup may now be raised in full view of the congregation with such words as*

In the same way  
he took the cup after supper, and said:  
'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this in memory of me.'  
*1 Corinthians 11.25*

*If individual glasses are used and the wine is retained to be drunk together, then the minister, when all are ready to drink, may say:*

Drink this cup;  
remember that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

## Acclamation

*After all have received the wine and after a period of silence, sentences and prayers may be used, such as*

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.  
Your resurrection we confess.  
Your final coming we await.  
Glory be to you, O Christ.  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

## Prayer after the Communion

God of grace,  
you have called us to be your disciple people  
and gathered us to your table.  
Here we have tasted the bread of heaven

and shared the new wine of your kingdom.  
Empower us by your Spirit  
that we may be a gospel people:  
good news for all the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Intercessions or a fellowship prayer may be offered at this point.*

*A hymn or worship songs may be sung.*

## **Words of Commissioning, Dismissal and Blessing**

Love with all sincerity;  
hate what is evil;  
cling to what is good;  
be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.  
Bless those who persecute you;  
bless and do not curse.  
Rejoice with those who rejoice  
and mourn with those who mourn.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Do not repay anyone evil for evil.  
And the blessing of God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you all. *from Romans 12.9–11*