

Food Communion

Suitable for use at Harvest

Prayer

God, almighty, glorious, powerful love;
exciting our deepest hopes and longings;
We honour you for your great love;
for your provision for all the needs of our bodies, minds and spirit;
for your gracious gift of Jesus Christ, your Son,
whom you have made our Saviour and our Lord.

Father, we realise we are in your presence
as we come together in Jesus' name:
Close to you, we are conscious of things which make us feel unworthy to be here.
Let us know your promised forgiveness.
Make us attentive to your words in whatever way you speak to us today;
Make us strong to obey you, thereby enriching the honour of your name.

Bible Reading

Genesis 18. 1 – 8
Abraham's hospitality

Shared Reading

The Lord has filled the hungry with good things (*Luke 1.53*)
How precious, O God, is your constant love.
We feast on the abundance of food you provide. (*Psalms 36.8*)
**Food is God's gift to us,
together with soil, water, sun,
and the labours of his people.**

Listen to me and do what I say
and you will enjoy the best food of all. (*Isaiah 55.2*)
**Our food is the product of working by God's laws
and living in harmony with his creation.**

Jesus saw the crowd and said;
'I feel sorry for these people. They have been with me for three days
and now have nothing to eat.'
After he had blessed and shared the seven loaves
all four thousand ate and had enough. (*Mark 8*)

**Because God loves the whole world,
he wants everyone to have enough to eat.**

Father, give us today, the food we need. (*Matthew 6.11*)

Not only for me Lord, but for us – for all.

May we never forget the hungry when we harvest and eat our food.

Jesus said, 'Do not start worrying about where your food will come from. Your father in heaven knows your needs.' (*Matthew 6.31*)

The Lord knows what we need.

He knows our need of faith, to trust him to provide for his people.

Jesus said, 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

If anyone eats this bread they will live for ever. (*John 6.51*)

He is the food which satisfies our deepest needs of spirit and of mind.

At his last supper with his disciples, Jesus took a piece of bread and gave a prayer of thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples.

He said, 'This is my Body'. (*Mark 14*)

We can remember him in the everyday act of taking food.

Jesus said, 'My food is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do.' (*John 4.34*)

Obedience even to death on the Cross

led to his finished work of Resurrection and new life

for all who believe and receive him as food for our inner being.

Because there is the one loaf of bread,
we, though many, are one body,
for we all share the same loaf. (*1 Corinthians 10.17*)

In our life in Christ,

the memory of him,

his dying and rising again,

unites us in the shared hospitality of his Kingdom.

Communion Prayer

In thought and prayer we share once more,
with the whole Church in the hospitality and unity of the Lord's Table.

We give thanks for this memory moment
which unites us with Jesus and all his people
in our common love for God and commitment to his Kingdom

In the tokens of bread and wine,
we remember Jesus' life, death and resurrection,
through which we have come to see and know God more clearly.

In these same tokens we receive the Lord, to live in us by his Spirit.

He is the living bread.

He is our food to satisfy all our spiritual appetite.

He is the wine.

The wine we share is our sign of dying to self and rising again to be like him.

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for everything good you have brought into our lives.

**Open our inward eyes to see you;
Open our minds to know your truth;
Open our hearts that we may receive you.
As we take the bread and wine,
Let it be the sign of your coming into our lives.**

Lord, you come to us.

We come to you.

You gave yourself for our salvation and eternal life.

We give ourselves to you.

Live your life in us. Work your kingdom work through us.

The Institution

1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26

Sharing Bread and Wine

[according to local custom]

Prayers for others

Quiet moments in which we share with God, our concerns for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

Final Prayer and Blessing

Lord, our God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
We adore you;
Lord of all creation;
God who makes us new in Jesus:

May the joy and peace we find in your presence;
Sustain us through every moment and experience of our life.
May this same joy and peace overflow our lives
As we share it with others.
Renew your love in us day by day
As we give ourselves to live in the power of your Spirit.

The Blessing