

A Prayer of Anticipation

O God, gracious provider for our needs, we remember your Son Jesus with love and hope, and we look forward to the day we may sit at table with him in your everlasting kingdom. As his disciples ate and drank the Passover Seder with him, we look forward to the banquet feast of heaven. We want to break bread and drink wine with Jesus your Son and celebrate with him your great victory over evil. We pray in Jesus' blessed name. **Amen.**

— Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.

Anniversary Lord's Supper Liturgy

The following liturgy for the Lord's Supper follows synodical guidelines and highlights in particular the theme of God's grace through every generation.

Consider involving children by having them speak the optional questions below—a practice that resembles the historic role of children at the Passover meal and symbolizes the covenant faithfulness of God to every generation.

Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from east and west, from north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

(Optional addition: considering adding at this point the theme verses from the appointed psalms for each of the three parts of the anniversary celebration: for remembering, Psalm 145:1-7; for rejoicing, Psalm 36:5-9; for rededicating, Psalm 78:1-7)

(Optional line, spoken by children, "Why do we come to this table?")

We come to this table because of Jesus' command and invitation. The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and, after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes.

In remembrance, rejoicing, and hope, we offer to God our grateful praise.

(Or this option, spoken by children: "How will we come to this table?")

**We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that he shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the lamb.**

—*Contemporary Testimony*, stanza 40

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

(Optional line, spoken by children: "What do we thank God for around this table?")

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us through every generation—even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

[Sung or spoken] **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until he comes again. At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me." For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Therefore we join our voices with those of every generation, proclaiming our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

(Optional line, spoken by children: "How shall we pray as we come to this table?")

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that our receiving of this bread and cup may be our receiving of Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. Remind us of the breadth of your church, far beyond our congregation, our denomination, our time and place.

Joining our voices with all parts of Christ's church, we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven . . . Amen.

[Breaking the bread] The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.

Invitation

Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Distribution

[As the bread is shared]

The body of Christ, given for you. **Thanks be to God.**

[As the cup is shared]

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Thanks be to God.**

Response of Praise and Prayer

Truly, God's grace extends to every generation.

with confidence in the faithfulness of God, we exclaim:

Praise the Lord, my soul;

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul,

and forget not all his benefits—

who forgives all your sins

and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit

and crowns you with love and compassion.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,

to receive power and wealth

and wisdom and strength

and honor and glory and praise!

—Psalm 103:1-4; Revelation 5:12, NIV

Loving God, just as you have fed us from one generation to the next, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to live and work for your glory and to tell your good news to all generations for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

