

Communion Liturgy from Sabeel

The Prayer of Consecration and Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Through Jesus Christ, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

All powerful and ever living God, we praise and thank you through Jesus Christ for your presence and action in the world. In the midst of violence and oppression, you gave us the courage to stand for truth and to work for justice.

In the midst of conflict and division, we know it is you who turn our minds to seek peace and reconciliation. Your spirit changes our hearts; enemies begin to speak to one another, those who were estranged join hands in friendship, and nations seek the way of peace together.

Your Spirit is at work when understanding puts an end to strife, when hatred is quenched by mercy, and vengeance gives way to forgiveness.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

God of power and might, we praise you through your Son Jesus Christ, who comes in your name. He is the Word that brings salvation, the hand you stretch out to sinners, the way that leads to your peace.

He is the same Jesus Christ who broke down the dividing wall of hostility between us, creating in himself one new humanity out of two.

We had wandered far from you, but through your Son you have brought us back. You gave him up to death so that we might turn again to you and find our way to one another. Therefore we celebrate the reconciliation Christ has gained for us.

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, your Son has entrusted to us this pledge of his love. We celebrate the memory of his death and resurrection and bring you the gift you have given us, the sacrifices of reconciliation and our hope for your peace and your justice.

Therefore, we ask you, O God, to sanctify these gifts by your Holy Spirit, that they may be for Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the New Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

May this same Spirit keep us always in communion with all your people. Loving God, make your Church throughout the world a source of unity and an instrument of your justice and peace.

You have gathered us here around the table of your son, in fellowship with all your saints. In that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, language, and way of life to share the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Now, each of us in our own language, let us pray as our Savior teaches us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Come and receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, and his blood which was shed for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

Serve the elements to the people

Concluding Prayer

Let us pray:

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love in the world, work for peace based on true justice, and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A resource from Sabeel, a Palestinian Ecumenical Christian Liberation Center in Jerusalem, shared with permission. www.sabeel.org