A Service of Word and Table

For the season of Easter



<u>Invitation</u>

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have not done your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen

Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving Christ be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to God. Let us give our thanks to the Holy Spirit. It is right to give our thanks and praise. It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. At creation, you spoke and the earth was formed, your voice thundering over the waters—separating earth from sky and shaking the trees into existence. From ancient time, the heavens have praised you, proclaiming your mighty presence and your glorious strength.

And so, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying:

Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your holy name. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ, who spoke wisdom to late-night visitors and outcast women, and who offered forgiveness to tax collectors, centurions, traitors, and even to modern-day sinners, that we might become your children: sisters and brothers of Christ Jesus, one family in your holy name.

As children of your Holy Spirit, called by Christ Jesus, we come to your table and remember that on the night before his death, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, saying:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts of love, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as your children, made holy by your grace, in union with Christ's love for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the embodied presence of Christ, signs of eternal life and steadfast love, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, the children of God, redeemed and adopted in the grace of your child, Jesus Christ.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly banquet.

Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forevermore.

Amen.