

The Liturgy of the
**HOLY
EUCHARIST**

from The Book of Alternative Services



with notes by The Reverend Lisa Wang

design and typesetting by Kerry Dickson



The word “liturgy” is from an ancient Greek word that means “the work of the people.” Christians use this word to describe the Church’s official acts of worship, most especially the “Divine Liturgy” of the Holy Eucharist. The word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word meaning “to give thanks.” It is the principle act of worship for Christians around the world, and is our remembrance of, thanksgiving for, and participation in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. We hope that this booklet will help you to enter more deeply into the meaning of our Church’s ancient traditions of worship, so that you can understand better what is happening when the people of God gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

- *The Reverend Lisa Wang*

HOLY EUCHARIST

[Prelude]

[Welcome & Announcements]

[Opening Hymn]

Priest + The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All And also with you.

Priest Almighty God,

All to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you 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.

Welcome!

Before the service begins, please respect those who wish to pray silently and recollect themselves in the presence of God.

Please stand.

Standing is the most ancient posture for prayer and worship in the Jewish and Christian traditions. We stand as a sign of respect and love for God.

Please stand.

This is a very ancient hymn to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which has been part of the Church's liturgy since the fourth century.

Priest

All

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated
at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
+Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Priest [Collect]

All Amen.

The First Reading

Reader [Reading]

Reader The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm

All [Psalm]

The Second Reading

Reader [Reading]

Reader The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please kneel.

The collect is an ancient prayer which “collects” the prayers of the congregation into one. It changes every week.

Please be seated.

By reading the Bible and hearing the story of what God has done in history, we open our hearts to what God desires for us today. The first reading is from the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible).

Please remain seated.

We sing a psalm, one of the ancient hymns of the Jewish people, as a way of responding to the words that we heard in the first reading.

The second reading is usually from the letters of St. Paul in the New Testament, which were written in the first century, and were read by the earliest Christians.

Please stand.

“Alleluia” is from a Hebrew word that means “Praise the Lord.” We sing “Alleluia” before the Gospel, which tells the story of Jesus. There are four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, written largely in the first century. Following an ancient custom, the Gospel is read from the midst of the congregation. We turn to face the reader as a way of showing our recognition that Christ is speaking to us in his word, and we desire to turn to him with our whole lives. We sign our foreheads, our lips, and our hearts with the cross, to show that the words of Christ must be grasped by our minds, proclaimed with our lips, and treasured in our hearts.

Please be seated.

The Holy Gospel

Choir Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Priest + The Holy Gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to _____.

All Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader [Reading]

Priest The Gospel of Christ.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

Priest Let us confess our faith, as we say,
All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

Please stand.

The Nicene Creed was composed largely at the Council of Nicaea, an international gathering of the Church held in the year 325 AD. The Creed gives a summary of the Christian faith, and has been part of the Church's liturgy since the fourth century. It is still used today in churches around the world. We say it here to affirm our faith and trust in God. It is our way of saying "yes" to all that God has done for us.

We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
+ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please remain standing.

Here we bring to God the needs of our world, our Church, our community, ourselves, and our loved ones, confident that God hears and answers us. "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

Please kneel.

By saying this prayer together, we acknowledge before God and one another that we are not perfect - we need forgiveness. And we bring to God all the things we need forgiveness for.

The Prayers of the People

The Confession and Absolution

Priest Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love
and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness..

All Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned
against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Priest Almighty God, have mercy upon you,
+ pardon and delivery you
from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you

All And with thy spirit.

[Offertory Hymn]

By receiving God's forgiveness we are set free from the prison of our own wrongdoing.

Please stand.

Here, in an ancient custom, we greet those around us with the words "Peace be with you," obeying Christ's command to lay down our grievances before we approach the altar of God (Matthew 5:24). For now that we have been forgiven by God, we are to offer that same forgiveness to one another.

With this prayer, we offer to God ourselves and our material goods, recognizing that our very lives and all we have is a gift from God. The Eucharist is above all an act of thanksgiving to him.

The words of this dialogue between the priest and people are one of the most ancient and universal features of Christian worship throughout the world. In it, the priest invites us all to join him or her in offering the sacrifice of thanksgiving which is about to take place.

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest [Prayer]

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
you are the source of light and life
for all your creation,
you made us in your own image,
and call us to new life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

OR

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who on this first day of the week
overcame death and the grave
and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.
In our unending joy we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as we raise our voices to proclaim
the glory of your name.

OR

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
you renew that mystery
in bread and wine and nourish us,
to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the holy people
who have served you in every age,
we raise our voices to proclaim
the glory of your name.

All Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel.

This song has been part of Christian worship since ancient times. In it we echo the very words sung by the angels in heaven, as depicted in the Old Testament (Isaiah 6:3). We fall to our knees because in a very real way we join in the worship offered in heaven, the songs of the angels and saints. This is an act of worship that is eternal, uniting heaven and earth, and transcending time and space.

With the same words with which the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem before his crucifixion, we welcome Jesus into our midst now, for this is his sacrifice.

Here begins the most solemn and ancient part of the liturgy, the consecration of the bread and wine.

Choir + Blessed is who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Priest We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent him|
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper he 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 many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore, Father, according to his command,
All we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Priest and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
+ Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

On the night of the last supper, Jesus asked his followers to remember his death by receiving the gift of his life - his body and blood - in bread and wine which he himself blessed for that purpose. Thus, when we hear the priest say, "Take, eat; this is my body, this is my blood," it is Christ himself who speaks these words to us, now. The ringing of the bell draws our attention to the holiness of this moment, as we are invited to give our hearts to God in adoration.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell
with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Priest As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All 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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Christ's body is broken
for us, so that we
might be made whole.

Priest We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ:

All We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Priest The gifts of God for the People of God.

All Thanks be to God.

All Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world;
grant us peace.

*ALL BAPTIZED PERSONS ARE WELCOME
TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION.*

*THOSE DRINKING FROM THE CUP ARE ASKED
TO ASSIST THE MINISTER BY GRASPING IT
AT THE BASE AND GUIDING IT TO THEIR LIPS.*

*IF YOU ARE NOT BAPTIZED, YOU MAY COME UP
TO RECEIVE A BLESSING.*

*TO INDICATE THIS TO THE PRIEST,
PLEASE CROSS YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR CHEST
AS YOU COME TO THE COMMUNION RAIL.*

[Communion Hymn, Motet]

Prayer after Communion

Priest [Prayer]

All Amen.

Priest Glory to God,

All whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine
Glory to God
from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
or ever and ever. Amen.

Before we rise from our knees to share in Holy Communion, we echo the words of St. John the Baptist (John 1:29) inviting us to adore Jesus the Lamb of God, whose blood, like that of the sacrificial lamb of the Jewish passover, rescues us from sin and death.

In receiving the gifts of Christ's body and blood, we are nourished by the very life that was offered for us on the cross - the life of God himself. There is no greater sign of God's love for us.

Please kneel.

Priest The peace of God
which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
+ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

[Closing Hymn]

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All + Thanks be to God.

Please stand.