
COMMUNION LITURGY

WAFTERS FROM HOME OF HOPE, INDIA

Invitation to the Lord's Supper:

"Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. Many will come from East and West, from North and South, to sit at the table in the Kingdom of God. This is the Lord's table – our Savior invites those who trust Him to share the feast He has prepared.

Come to this sacred table, not because you must, but because you may. Come to testify, not that you are righteous, but that you sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ and desire to be his true disciples.

Come not because you are strong, but because you are weak; not because you have any claim on the grace of God, but because of your frailty and sin.

You stand in constant need of God's mercy. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek God's presence and pray for the Spirit.

Confession of Sin and Words of Assurance:

Let us make this confession together:

*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 neighbors 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.**

Prayer of Humble Access:

The word of God tells us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. May God Almighty have mercy on us. Forgive us all of our sins through the Lord Jesus Christ, and then strengthen us in all goodness. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. Amen

Affirmation of Faith:

*Now let us confess our faith in the words of the apostle's creed. Let us recite together:
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hades; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven,*

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from then He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Words of Institution:

Hear the words of the Lord Jesus Christ as they are received by the apostle Paul:

'For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread and when he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Tonight/this morning, my brothers and sisters, we will take communion by intinction. But we want you to know that the communion wafers we will receive have been lovingly made for us by women from the Home of Hope in India. These, our sisters, have been rescued from sex trafficking. From our sister church in India, the Hindustani Covenant Church. With the support of our own Covenant World Relief, the women once rescued are brought to the Home of Hope for care, restoration, and to experience the love of Jesus.

Through the making and the selling of these communion wafers, the women are learning new job skills, and together with other livelihood development, they are finding new ways to

support themselves and their families. As we partake in communion today, may we remember these beautiful women in India and all those who are yet trapped in a cycle of trafficking locally and globally.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup:

So, as you come to the table, please take a wafer, dip it into the cup, and hear this sacred reminder:

"This is the body of Christ, which was broken for you. This is the blood of Christ which was shed for you..."

End of Communion Prayer

Loving God, you graciously feed us, who have received these holy mysteries, with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see your face to face in your kingdom. For you have made us your people by the death and resurrection of your Son our Lord and by the life-giving power of your Spirit.

What we have been about here is not separate from life. Rather these acts have been a reminder that we belong to Christ always and forever. WE carry Christ's Spirit in our homes, our daily activities, all our relationships. We are Christ's people. By God's grace let it be so. Amen.