

Spirit of the Lakes Communion Liturgy (May 2008)

The communion liturgy is most often led by two celebrants, shown as “A” and “B” below.

The Great Thanksgiving

(If the congregation is not standing, say “please stand as you are able”.)

Celebrant A: God is with you.

All: *And also with you*

Celebrant B: Let us lift up our hearts

All: *We lift them up to our God.*

A: Let us give God thanks and praise.

All: *This is a good and joyful thing to do.*

B: It is a right and good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give you praise, all-loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth. Therefore we celebrate you, joining our voices with the wind and the streams, the animals and the flowers, the living and the dead, the stars and the planets and all the company of Creation, who forever sing the unending hymn to proclaim the glory of your Holy Name. *(All sing the Sanctus.)*

(You may invite the congregation to sit)

Words of Remembrance

A: We remember that on the night before Jesus was killed by those who feared him, he sat at table with his friends, women and men and children, sharing in the feast of the Passover, which is the celebration of the liberation of God’s people.

And remembering God’s power, Jesus took bread (*take the bread*), and after he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it (*break it*) saying, “This is my work and my life, for you and with you. Take it all of you, and do this remembering me.” (*place half on each communion plate.*)

B: *(take the cup)* After dinner Jesus took the Elijah Cup, the cup that was traditionally reserved for the Holy One to come. But instead of waiting, Jesus passed it to them as it is now being passed on to us, and he said “This is the cup of the new covenant. It is the cup of justice and peace poured out for all. Drink of it all of you, and do this remembering me.” *(put cup down)*

Each time that we break bread together we participate in the Body of the Risen Christ, for we are the Body of the Risen Christ. And each time we share this cup we participate in the New Community, for we are God’s hope for the New community.

Let us consecrate these elements as we sing our table prayer together. *(Celebrants extend their hands over the bread and wine as all sing the Table Prayer.)*

Prayers of the Gathered Community

Here prayers are offered by one celebrant

- *for the world*
- *for our country*
- *for our state, city and neighborhood*
- *for our worship community*

You may want to use some or all of the following framework:

A: Holy One, you gather us together and you gather us to yourself so that we may experience the power of your love and mercy in the love and mercy of our sisters and brothers. We gather around this table as equals to be challenged by your word, to be filled with your grace, and to be nourished at this feast of liberation.

(Here raise up prayers for the world and for this nation), including issues of concern to this community, issued in the media, and issues that are overlooked.)

Holy One, from all across the world we hear of genocide, of ethnic, sectarian, and political violence. We hear of violence, exploitation, and abuse. Forgive us, Holy One, when we forget how closely related we are to every other human being, and when we forget how closely we are related to every aspect of your Creation.

(Here raise regional and local concerns)

Holy One, here in Minnesota your people still live without adequate employment, housing, and health care. May we work for the rights of all your people. May we know that we are one people, all equal in your sight.

(Here raise prayer requests from the community, including birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Finish with the following paragraph.)

Pour your spirit, Loving God, on your people as we live with unemployment, with HIV and AIDS, with hepatitis, with cancer, with addictions, with MS, with diabetes, with mental illness, with depression, with coming out issues, with grief and loss, and when we really need to know that you are near. We pray in the words taught to us in the Scriptures.

(All sing the Prayer that Jesus Taught)

Invitation to the Table

B: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. At Spirit of the Lakes we share an inclusive communion, which means you do not need to be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table, for we believe that Christ is the host, Christ sets the table, and Christ welcomes all.

There will be several stations behind the table for receiving the communion elements and a brief prayer. The server closest to the piano will be serving gluten-free bread. If you wish only the elements, or only a prayer, simply mention that to your communion server. You are welcome to come singly, in couples, or in groups down the center aisle, and to return to your seats by the side aisles.

Let us come, for God's table is ready.