

Liturgy for a Virtual Communion

Jesus said:

'Truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Whoever eats of this bread will live forever;

and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

(John 6.47-51)

We are the people of God,

we are the body of Christ.

We are scattered, and the body of Christ is broken,

but as we gather, the body of Christ is re-membered.

So together we gather in obedience to Jesus' command,

to remember, and to share together in breaking bread and drinking wine,

in remembrance of the death of Christ.

Each piece of bread that we eat was once scattered across the fields,

and the grain that God gave to grow

has become for us the bread of life.

Each sip of wine that we drink was once many vines,

and the grapes that God gave to grow

have become for us the new wine of God's kingdom.

In our communion with one another,

we are fed with the bread of heaven that sustains us,

and we drink the wine of gladness that brings us joy.

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On the night on which Jesus was betrayed,

he sat at supper with his disciples.

While they were eating, he took a piece of bread,

said a blessing, broke it, and gave it to them with the words,

'This is my body. It is for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later, he took a cup of wine, saying,

'This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood.

Drink from it, all of you, to remember me'.

So now, following Jesus' example and command,

we take this bread and this wine,

the ordinary things of the world which Christ will make special.

And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us do so too:

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*Reader: God of all those who are scattered and broken,
you call us to wholeness.*

*We thank you for your love, demonstrated in the giving of your Son,
that we might be united with you.*

*We thank you that in Christ you enter into the pain, uncertainty, and fear
of our world;*

*and that your arms are open in loving embrace,
gathering us to you as a mother hen gathers her brood under her wing,
as a shepherd gathers his flock.*

*We thank you for bread and wine,
symbols and signs for us today,
of your faithfulness to your people through all generations.
Amen.*

‘Hear the word of the LORD, you nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather them,
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'" (Jeremiah 31.10)

Lord, as this bread, once scattered over the hills, was brought together
and became one loaf, so, Lord may your Church be united and brought
together from the ends of the earth into your Kingdom.

Let us share in bread together. (*We share the bread*)

‘Then all the Judeans returned from all the places to which they had
been scattered
and came to the land of Judah,
and they gathered wine and summer fruits in great abundance.
(Jeremiah 40.12).

Let us share in wine together. (*We share the wine*)

We lift to God in prayer those we know who are in particular need at this
time. (*Pause and pray*)

Jesus said: ‘The hour is coming, indeed it has come,
when you will be scattered, each to your own home.
You will leave me all alone.

Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.

In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart! I have overcome the world!" (John 16.32-33) Amen.