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The preparation

The congregation stands as the Bible is brought into the church and placed open upon the lectern, pulpit or communion table. The Minister follows and greets the people.

Greeting

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Grace to you and peace.** Romans 1:7

or

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

All **And also with you.** 2 Corinthians 13:13

A Scripture sentence, seasonal or general, may replace the greeting or be used in addition.

Sentence

This is the day that the Lord has made;

All **let us rejoice and be glad in it.** Psalm 118:24

This is none other than the house of God,

All **and this is the gate of heaven.** Genesis 28:17

or

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All **who made heaven and earth.** Psalm 124:8

Hymn or Psalm

An appropriate hymn or psalm can be used.

Prayer of Approach

God our source and guide and goal:
you have made us in your image
and set us in a world full of beauty;
you dwell in light unapproachable,
yet you have come to be among us, full of grace and truth;
you are the power from on high,
coming in wind and flame to work your wonders in our midst.
Gracious God, awaken us from sleep
that we may worship you in spirit and in truth:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Great Commandments

Alternatively, 'A New Commandment' (*Rejoice and Sing* 745) or the Ten Commandments may be used.

Hear, O Israel:

All **The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

All **This is the first and great commandment.**

The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself

All **There is no commandment greater than these.**

Prayer of Confession

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just,
will forgive us our sins. 1 John 1:8-9a

Jesus says:
I have come to call not the righteous but sinners. Mark 2:17

Let us confess our sins together
and seek God's forgiveness.

All **Almighty God, we confess before you**
our own sin, the sin of the Church
and the sin of the world, in which we share.
We have not loved you with our whole being;
we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
In your mercy,
forgive us when we turn from you;
release us from the burden of our past,
and remake us in your image and likeness
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord says: See, I am making all things new. Revelation 21:5

All **If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.** 2 Corinthians 5:17

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself 2 Corinthians 5:19

Through him your sins are forgiven.
All **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

The Lord also says:
If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me. Mark 8:34

or

May the God of mercy
who forgives you all your sins through Jesus Christ
strengthen you in all goodness
by the power of the Holy Spirit
and keep you in eternal life.
All **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy *(Kyrie eleison)*

The Kyries (*Rejoice and Sing* 5) may be said or sung.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

or

Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
All **have mercy upon us.**

Glory to God *(Gloria in excelsis)*

Settings may be found at *Rejoice and Sing* 6-8.

All **Glory to God in the highest,**
and peace to God's people on earth.

All **Lord God, heavenly King,**
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

All **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.

Prayer for grace or prayer for the day

An appropriate prayer for grace or prayer for the day can be used.

The Ministry of the Word

Appropriate Scripture readings may be found in the Revised Common Lectionary. The readings may be interspersed with hymns or sung responses.

Before the reading of Scripture, the first reader may say:

Lord, break the bread of your word among us
and nourish us with your truth.

At the end of the readings a response may be used:

Hear the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God**

Old Testament reading (Hebrew Scriptures)

Psalm, canticle, hymn or sung response

(eg *Rejoice and Sing* canticles 736-758 or sung responses 394, 395, 397, 403)

New Testament reading(s)

Sermon

A short silence may be kept after the readings and/or the sermon.

Affirmation of faith

An affirmation of faith or creed may be said or sung (eg *Rejoice and Sing* 759-761; 36-37, 103, 118, 219, 258, 262, 275, 283, 749, 752.)

Prayers of Intercession

The intercessions may, if preferred, follow communion.

The Lord's Prayer

Various forms of the Lord's Prayer can be found on page 100.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Let us celebrate this joyful feast.
People will come from east and west and north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God. Luke 13:29

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.
Anyone who comes to me I will never turn away. John 6:35, 37

The invitation may be given in other appropriate words.

Offertory

The bread and the wine may be brought to the table, with the gifts of the people. If the bread and wine are already on the table, they should now be uncovered. The following sentence may be used:

Brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God
present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God. Romans 12:1

If the Peace is used at this point, the following sentence may be used:

When you are offering your gift at the altar,
if you remember that your brother or sister has
something against you,
leave your gift there before the altar and go:
first be reconciled to your brother or sister. Matthew 5:23-24

The following prayer may be used:

Almighty and most merciful God,
out of the fullness of your gifts
we bring before you this bread and this wine,
our gifts and our lives.
Blessed be your holy name forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

or

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
May it become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and the work of human hands.
May it become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

All **Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.**
Through your goodness
we have ourselves to offer,
fruit of the womb, and formed by your love.
May we become your servants in the world.
Blessed be God for ever.

Narrative of the institution

The narrative may be omitted if it is used as part of the prayer of thanksgiving.

Hear the narrative of the institution of the Lord's Supper as it is recorded by St Paul.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the same way he took the cup also, after Supper, saying, 'This cup 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 the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We offer you thanks, Creator, Saviour, Giver of Life.
From the beginning you have made yourself known:
the heavens proclaim your glory and the earth sings your praise.
In wisdom you made all that is
and you bless us with earth's fruitfulness.
You are merciful and gracious, and abounding in love.
Yet from our first days we have disobeyed your will.
Long ago you called to yourself a people
to shine as light to guide all nations to your presence.
You led them to freedom;
you revealed to them your Law
and taught them through your prophets.
Finally you sent your promised Son, Jesus Christ,
who shared our human nature and understood our weakness.
Born of Mary, he showed forth your love by word and sign.

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

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

He sought the unloved and the lost
and welcomed all who came to him;
he taught us lessons of forgiveness
he brought us healing for our sickness,
and showed us how to live according to your will.
For this he was rejected,
for this he endured grief and sorrow,
for this he gave himself up to death upon the Cross.
But you broke the power of sin and death
and raised him to the heights,
that through the blood of his Cross
and by the gift of the Holy Spirit
everything in earth and heaven might be reconciled to you.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:
'This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this is remembrance of me.'
In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:
'This cup 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 the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

or

All **Dying, you destroyed our death.**
Rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Come, Creator God: renew the face of the earth;
come, eternal Saviour: remake us in your likeness;
come, Holy Spirit, transform these gifts:
that Christ may be known to us in the breaking of the bread
and that we may be strengthened to serve him in the world.

May we on earth be one with all Christ's people,
and, when all things are complete,
be raised up to be with him,
[with ... *the saints; those who have died*]
and with all your faithful servants in the heavenly places,
the homeland which we seek by faith,
and where he reigns in glory,
with you, Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

A sign of Peace may be shared, according to local custom. The Peace may be shared earlier in the service, eg after the assurance of pardon or at the offertory or after communion.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

All **Peace be with you.**

The breaking of the bread and pouring of the wine

The narrative of the institution may be used here if not used earlier.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. 1 Corinthians 5:7

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.
The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:16

or the Easter anthems may be said or sung (*Rejoice and Sing* 748)

Lamb of God *(Agnus Dei)*

Musical settings will be found at *Rejoice and Sing* 14-16

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

All **Have mercy upon us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

All **Have mercy upon us**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

All **Grant us peace.**

or

Jesus, Lamb of God:

All **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

All **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world:

All **grant us peace.**

The Sharing of the bread and the wine

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

All **Alleluia.**

or

Holy things for a holy people.

All **Only one is holy, the Lord Jesus Christ.**
We are made holy in him.

Take, eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of him.

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ,
shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sin.
Drink of it, all of you, in remembrance of him.

or

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

or

The bread of heaven in Christ Jesus.
The cup of salvation in Christ Jesus.

Prayer after Communion

God of a love stronger than death,
you have given us new birth into a living hope
through the gift of your Son.
God with us,
like a mother you have fed us with yourself
and strengthened us for journeying ahead.
God of truth and power,
you take our weakness and our sin
and refashion us by grace.

All **Gracious God,**
may the love which bids us welcome at this table
gather all your children into one,
in your eternal presence,
whole and free at last.
Amen.

Hymn or Psalm

An appropriate hymn or psalm can be used.

Dismissal

Go out into the world with the food of your pilgrimage
in peace and gladness.

All **Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words.**

or

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ.**
Amen.

Blessing

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always.

All **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Responses may be used between the sections. Sung responses will be found at *Rejoice and Sing* 5, 393, 397, 398, 402). Times of silence may also be left. Where possible two or three different voices may be used. In the prayers for peace, justice and the integrity of creation, candles may be lit for human rights, the peace of the earth, and the harmony of creation.

Jesus taught his disciples always to pray and not lose heart.

God all just, all merciful,
your compassion is over all that you have made:

Prayer for the Church

We pray for your Church throughout the world:
for its faithfulness in proclaiming the good news,
for its mission to reach out with Christ's love
to all who are in need,
for its witness, to shine as light where darkness prevails,
for its peace and unity,
to be a sign of reconciliation in a divided world.
We pray especially for ...
and for all Christ's people in this place,
that they may be given strength to walk in his way,
embrace his truth, and show forth his life.

Prayer for justice in the world

We pray for justice for those who are denied it,
who suffer for their beliefs,
or who are persecuted for what they are,
that their rights and dignity may be upheld;
we pray for those who are exploited
or enslaved at work or in the home,
that their cries may be heard;
for the many who go poor while the few prosper,
that the earth's resources may be fairly shared.

Prayer for the peace of the world

We pray for the world in all its need:
for its peace, remembering today ...
for the victims of war, terror, famine and disease,
that they may be freed from all afflictions;
for those who are forced to flee their homes,
that they may find safe lodging;
for those who misuse power,
that they may serve others, not themselves;
for those who nurture hatred in their hearts,
that they may come to know the meaning of the Cross.

Prayer for the integrity of creation

We pray for the earth itself, polluted and despoiled,
that the fragile balance of the natural order
may be respected,
its beauty and variety preserved,
and greed and selfish gain be put aside,
that harmony may be restored between ourselves and our environment.

Prayer for human society and those in need

We pray for nations and societies across the world,
and for our own,
for national and local government,
that those who rule may serve with wisdom and integrity;
for communities, that they may seek the common good;
for those who work to support and enhance community life,
that their endeavours may prosper;
for those whose work influences the lives of many,
that they may act responsibly and justly.
We pray for families and children,
that they may be secure and strong;
for friends and neighbours, wherever they are;
for the sick, the lonely, the neglected,
the dying and the bereaved,
that they may know the healing touch of Christ;
for those who have lost hope,
that light will shine in their darkness;
for those in any kind of need, especially for ...

Commemoration of those who have died

We remember with joy those whose journey now is ended
and whose lives among us helped us on our way,
especially ...
We commend to you those who have died
unloved,
unmourned,
and those dear to others.
We pray that we may come with them
to where there are no endings or beginnings,
but one equal joy in your eternal presence.

These prayers we offer through Jesus Christ,
who gave his life that all might be reconciled
and your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

All **Amen.**