

## THE LORD GREETUS US AT THE TABLE

### THE CREED

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper to nourish and sustain those who are born again and grafted into his family: his church.

Let us confess the faith of the church, using the words of the Belgic Confession:

**People: We believe that our good God and Creator, by his marvelous wisdom and goodness, seeing that humankind had plunged into both physical and spiritual death promised to give us his Son, born of a woman, to crush the head of the serpent, and to make us blessed.**

**So then we confess that God fulfilled the promise which he had made to the early fathers and mothers by the mouth of his holy prophets when he sent his only and eternal Son into the world at the time set by him.**

### THE THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks,  
it is our joy and our peace,  
at all times and in all places  
to give thanks to you, holy Father,  
almighty, everlasting God,  
through Christ our Lord.**

Pastor With joy we praise you, gracious God,  
for you have created heaven and earth,  
made us in your image, and kept covenant with  
us— even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
whose coming opened to us the way of salvation  
and whose triumphant return we eagerly await.

Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and  
angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory  
of your name.

**All Sing: All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

*-On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (PH 327, verse 4)*

## **THE INSTITUTION**

Pastor: We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior,  
Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this  
memorial of his sacrifice, until his coming again.  
For the Lord Jesus on the night when he was  
betrayed took bread, and when he had given  
thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body  
which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant of 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.

## **THE MEMORIAL**

**All: God’s promise of a shoot coming out of the stump of Jesse we recall,  
his birth in a manger we declare.  
His death and resurrection, O God, we proclaim.  
His coming again we await.  
Glory be to you, O Lord.**

## **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**Pastor:** Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that our sharing of them may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him.

May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **PREPARATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Pastor: The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**People: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**

Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**People: The cup which we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

## **THE INVITATION AND DEDICATION**

Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord, are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God!

**People: Let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## **THE COMMUNION**

*(Those receiving the sacrament may come forward as ushered. Children may come with families to be given a blessing. You will be served the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ, broken for you." You may simply receive it, break off a piece, and pass it on, repeating those words to the next person, or you may receive it with the words, "Thanks be to God." We hold the bread until the cup comes, and we dip the bread into the grape juice. The words accompanying this act are: "The Blood of Christ, shed for you.")*

**PLEASE RETURN THIS LITURGY TO THE  
BACK TABLE AFTER THE SERVICE**