

# Home Communion

during the

## CoVid-19 Pandemic

### Some thoughts:

Out of pastoral concern for you, the people of Zion Lutheran Church of San Antonio, we have created this Home Communion liturgy. During this time of worshiping in our homes, this liturgy gives you the chance to:

- Intentionally set apart time and space for worship in your schedule and home.
- Thoughtfully incorporate the reading of Scripture, connecting it to Holy Communion.
- Reflect upon the Real Presence of Jesus Christ: Christ who is present in, with, and under the bread and wine/grape juice.

### Some guidelines:

- We have created this liturgy specifically for use during the CoVid-19 Pandemic. When it is safe for us to gather in person, do not use this liturgy to replace in-person worship. ***This liturgy is a temporary measure.***
- Our request is that you set apart the time (just like when we gather at our church) so that you can focus on the reading of the Scripture and receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For some, this will be on Sunday mornings (maybe after watching the livestream), for others it will be late evening or another time during the week. Find a time that works well for you and that gives you breathing space so that the liturgy is more meaningful. Please prepare your worship space and communion elements ahead of time.
- ***Please use the entire liturgy, without omitting any parts:***
  - The rite of Confession and Forgiveness helps us reflect on our sins, confess them, repent of them, and receive the grace of God offered in God's forgiveness.
  - The reading of the Word grounds our faith in the stories of Scripture. As Lutherans, we use the phrase "Word and Sacrament" a lot because our sacramental lives are meant to be set always with the hearing/reading of God's Word.
  - The holy meal – Holy Communion – is when God meets us in the simplest of elements: bread and wine/grape juice.
  - In the Sending, God sends us out into the rest of our lives to live out the love of God.
- Make sure everyone has a copy of the liturgy, either on paper or on a device. (If you need paper copies mailed to you, please call the Church Office at 210-688-3090.)
- For the lesson(s): the readings for Sundays are included in the Thursday Zmail or at this website: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>. Alternatively, someone may read a favorite passage.
- For communion elements, in accordance with our tradition, ***please use some form of bread, and then either wine or grape juice (or if those cannot be obtained, water).*** Taking communion in one kind (bread OR wine/grape juice) is perfectly acceptable, as well.

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- Leading this service:
  - We are aware that some of you live alone. In that case, you may read all the parts yourself, either silently or aloud. While you may certainly worship by yourself using this liturgy, consider using electronic means (like FaceTime or similar) to worship with another person or household as you all follow the liturgy together.
  - Allow anyone in the household to lead different portions, no matter their age. If you have children in your home, help them learn the liturgy by leading it! Regular print is to be read by the leader; **bold print is the responses.**
- The cross ( ✝ ) throughout shows the points where you're encouraged to make the sign of the cross, remembering God's love for you.
- After the service, any leftover communion elements should be disposed of with care. If possible, they may be consumed by those present. If that isn't possible, please return the elements to the earth by taking them outside. The bread can be put somewhere for birds to find, and the wine/grape juice can be poured out. Make this a reverent time, as well, and this is a great task to include children in, if present.

Our prayer is that you will find this practice of Home Communion meaningful until the time that we can safely be together in person.

Pr. Dave Schulte  
Pr. Kathi Johnson  
Pr. Dan Heim

## + Gathering +

### **Invocation**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## + Word +

*Here, at least one lesson of Scripture is read. At its conclusion:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Quiet meditation upon the lesson(s) is encouraged, and/or discussion about the lesson by those gathered (if applicable).*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Here, pray for others: for the sick, injured, grieving, and isolated. Pray for leaders of governments around the world. Pray for those in any form of need. Pray for creation and our use of it. Offer prayers of thanksgiving, too.*

## + Meal +

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

**And also with you.**

When our congregation last gathered in worship, I/we heard again of God's mighty acts and the love shown us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. I/we shared in the holy meal of the Lord's Supper. Now, I/we receive this word of life, and this bread and cup of blessing, so that I/we may share in these same gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God.

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation has often remembered with thanksgiving that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for us.

I/we pray as Jesus has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*The bread and wine/grape juice/water are received in a reverent manner as these words are spoken:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **Prayer After Communion**

I/we give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed me/us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen me/us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward others; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## + Sending +

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and ✝ give us peace.

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Be at peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*If you are worshiping alone, we suggest calling or texting others at this time to share the Peace of Christ with them. If more than one person is present, you may share the Peace of Christ with each other at this time.*

*At the conclusion of the Sharing of the Peace, please dispose of the communion elements by consuming them or returning them to the earth outside.*