

Celebration of the Lord's Supper



First Church in Albany, NY

***Communion Hymn:** *see bulletin for hymn*

- *Deacons process with elements; place on table; sit in front pews.*
- *Elders rise; go to tables; Sr. & Asst. Elders remove covers; sit.*

Meaning of the Sacrament: *(Please speak the **bold** text aloud)*

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, the holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of **remembrance, of communion, and of hope.**

We come in remembrance, that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world to assume our flesh and blood and to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law, even to the bitter and shameful death of the cross.

By his death, resurrection, and ascension he established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation that we might be accepted of God and never be forsaken by him.

We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world. In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us as the true heavenly Bread that strengthens us unto life eternal. In the cup of blessing he comes to us as the Vine in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.

We come in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when his kingdom has fully come, when with unveiled face we shall behold him, made like unto him in his glory.

Since by his death, resurrection, and ascension, **Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body, so we are to receive this Supper in true love, mindful of the communion of saints.**

Invitation: *Ministers, in the name of Christ, extend an invitation.*

Communion Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and preserve us by your providence.

But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name:

**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!**

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died!
Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, **we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into Christ our Lord.**

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

Communion: *(Partake of the cup together; you will be told when.)*

- *Ministers declare the Words of Institution.*
- *Ministers break bread and pour out tankard.*
- *Ministers serve bread to Deacons and Elders; Ministers sit.*
- *Sr. & Asst. Elders rise; serve bread to Ministers.*
- *Deacons rise; receive breadware from Sr. & Asst. Elders.*

- Deacons process and serve congregation bread; meanwhile:
- Elders rise; receive cupware from Sr. & Asst. Elders, then:
- Elders process and serve congregation the cup; meanwhile:
- Deacons return; give breadware to Sr. & Asst. Elders; sit.
- Elders return; give cupware to Sr. & Asst. Elders; sit.
- Sr. & Asst. Elders serve the cup to Ministers.
- Ministers rise and lead church to partake of the cup together.

Thanksgiving After Communion: *From Ps.103, with additions*

Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his Table, let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, **and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.** Bless the Lord, O my soul, **and do not forget all God's benefits**—who forgives all your iniquity, **who heals all your diseases**, who redeems your life from the Pit, **who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.** The Lord is merciful and gracious, **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.** God does not deal with us according to our sins, **nor repay us according to our iniquities.** For as the heavens are high above the earth, **so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear God;** as far as the east is from the west, **so far does God remove our transgressions from us.** As a parent has compassion for their children, **so the Lord has compassion for those who fear God**, who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, and will also give us all things with him. **Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. Amen.**

Intercession: *Prayer of Minister's choosing*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn: *(see bulletin)*

- Sr. & Asst. Elders cover elements.
- Sr. & Asst. Elders & Minister(s) recess to narthex.