

Especially we thank you for
the beauty of your creation ...
the new creation in Christ ...
all gifts of healing and forgiveness ...
the sustaining love of family and friends ...
the fellowship of faith in your church ...

Merciful God of might,
renew this weary world,
heal the hurts of all your children,
and bring about your peace for all
in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray for
those who govern nations of the world ...
people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare ...
all who work for peace and harmony ...
all who strive to restore the earth ...
the church of Jesus Christ in every land ...

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
be our starting point and our haven,
and accompany us in each day's journey.
Use our hands
to do the work of your creation
and use our lives
to bring others the new life you give this world
in Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all. **Amen.**

BLESSING

An elder says:

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord be kind and gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

*Upon leaving, identify the next date the team will return with communion.
Normally, the visit should take between 20 and 30 minutes. Team members
should be alert for signs of fatigue or discomfort and should adapt the service
accordingly.*

Order for the Extended Serving of the Communion of the Church

*Prior to the Extended Serving team leaving the church, the presiding minister
may pray these or similar words:*

Loving God,
as you sent the angel to minister to Elijah
with the bread of heaven,
send us out in this ministry of love and grace.
Strengthen and nourish
all who celebrate this sacrament
that through our communion
in the body and blood of Christ,
we all may know the comfort
of your eternal presence. Amen.

*Team members should always identify themselves by name with these or
similar words:*

We are N. and N. from N. church, here to visit and to
enable you to share in the communion of your church.

*Elders and deacons should take time to visit with the Communicant. As you
visit, listen for concerns and joys to remember in prayer.*

*When all are ready for communion, prepare the elements by
uncovering the bread and pouring the cup. Elders and deacons may invite
others present to join in this service.*

GREETING

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

EXTENDING THE LORD'S TABLE

Then an elder says these words:

When our congregation gathered this morning for the
celebration of the Lord's Supper, we heard again the
story of God's mighty acts of love, embodied in the death
and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remembered that:

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples saying,
“This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying.
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We were also given assurance of the Lord's presence
through the gift of his Holy Spirit.

Now we bring you this same bread of life and this
same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened
through our communion in the Body of Christ.

CONFESSION

When circumstances permit, this or a similar prayer of confession may be said:

Almighty and merciful God,
we have erred and strayed from your ways
like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done.
O Lord, have mercy upon us
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises
declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O merciful God, for his sake
that we may live a holy, just, and humble life
to the glory of your holy name.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

An elder says:

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone: a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**
May the peace of Christ always be with you.

SCRIPTURE READING

*The reading from Scripture upon which the morning sermon was based may
be read. It is especially appropriate for a deacon to read the Scripture lesson.*

INTERPRETATION OF THE WORD

*Pastors should supply the Extended Serving teams with a brief synopsis of the
morning sermon, or teams may offer their own recollection of the
proclamation of the Word.*

*The Opening Prayer or Prayer of the Day from the Lord's Day
service may then be said, followed by the Lord's Prayer.*

COMMUNION

The bread and cup are given saying:

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

*Join hands to offer this or a similar prayer. It is especially appropriate for a
deacon to lead the prayer. Specific prayers for the individual or the church
may be added.*

Mighty God of mercy,
we thank you for the resurrection dawn
bringing the glory of our risen Lord
who makes every day new.