

Communion – Advent Response

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We gather at this table

recognizing that Jesus did not come for *a* people,
but for *all* people.

We gather as one body in the mystery of God's dwelling among us
in the sharing of one loaf and one cup

signs of the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He was born in the poverty of a stable

and adored both by

affluent magi bearing gifts

and lowly shepherds who first proclaimed him.

It is this one – Emmanuel – who now invites us to come and dine,

to be filled with all the fullness of God,

and to proclaim his kingdom

so the house of the Lord may be established forever and forever.

Holy child, living God,

we come in all of our rich diversity:

young and old,

rich and poor,

men and women,

of varying ethnicity and heritage,

so we might taste and see that you are good.

We gather so the mystery of this table

the mystery of your dwelling

may be profoundly known,

if not fully understood.

Through the fellowship of your table,

draw us into the sustaining light of your grace.

Arise over us

so our hearts might resound with joy

and so we might be set free from the bondage

of prejudice, hate, resentment, pride,

and any other thing that separates us from you

and from one another.

Allow this table to truly be for us a communion

a breaking down of barriers

and a building up of your body.
We pray with boldness and confidence the prayer that Jesus taught us:
All: Our Father...

(Leader picks up the bread.)

On the night in which the light of the world gave himself for us,
he took bread,
blessed and broke it,
and gave it to his disciples saying:
"Take, eat this, all of you.
This is my body, which is broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

(breaking the bread)

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:
one body,
broken for all,
that we in all our diversity might be his body in the world.

(picking up the cup)

After the supper had ended,
Jesus took the cup,
blessed it,
gave it to his disciples and said:
"Take, drink from this, all of you.
This is the blood of the new covenant
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

This cup is a sharing in the blood of Christ,
which cleanses us from all unrighteousness
and allows us to know the joy of relationship
both with God
and with one another...
(continuing to hold the cup and picking up the bread)
so we can proclaim the mystery of God's dwelling in Christ:
that Christ has died,
that Christ is risen,
and that Christ will come again.

(the communion elements are shared)

Let us pray.

Precious Jesus,

you who were broken for us,

we praise you for the holy mystery of this bread and cup,
symbols of your body and blood.

Strengthen us

not as an assortment of individuals,

but as the beautiful diversity of your church,

to go forth bearing the gifts

of your love even for our enemies,

of your joy even in the midst of suffering,

and of your peace even in the midst of violence

so all might see and know that you are Lord. Amen.

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