

Communion Liturgy
Rocky Mountain Annual Conference Opening Worship Service
June 13, 2007
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Invitation

At this table, all are welcome.
The invisible shall be made visible
and those on the margins given places of honor.
Christ calls us forward to share in the mystery:
that in pouring out our very selves
we shall find life abundant and eternal.
Yet when we accept the invitation
we know we shall be changed.
And so we confess our need and our desire
for that holy transformation.

Confession and Pardon

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart,
and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We have failed to see your image in our sisters and brothers,
calling some “friends” and others “enemies,”
making distinctions between rich and poor,
men and women, gay and straight,
black and white, liberal and conservative.**

**We have closed our eyes to those in need,
and have believed those who tell us
there are two kinds of people in the world:
“us” and “them.”**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Open our eyes,
correct our vision,
and help us to see this world you love
in all its glorious diversity and wonder.**

**May the invisible become visible
for us
and in us
and through us
as Christ leads us ever closer to you. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ lived, and died, and lives forever
that we might know the depth of God’s love for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

All: **Glory to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

The Peace

As forgiven and reconciled people,
let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

(Preparing the Bread and Cup)

The Great Thanksgiving

The Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator!

With joy we give our thanks and praise!

Before anything was created, you were God.

You spoke into the darkness
and called forth light and substance
from the formless void;
by your Word
you called order and beauty
out of chaos.

And so you have made the invisible
visible
throughout all of history.

You created us out of ordinary dust,
claimed us as children made in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

You heard the cries of slaves in Egypt, invisible
until you called forth Moses and Miriam
to help Pharaoh see your people.

You delivered us from captivity
and made visible a path through the waters,
making a way where there was no way
sending nourishment where none could be seen,
leading us through wilderness
so we could un-learn the ways of injustice and oppression.

When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

When we have needed signs and reminders of your love,
your grace, your truth, your desire for justice,

You have sent signs and wonders,
judges and prophets,
women and men who have spoken your Word
who have proclaimed your vision for creation
who have taught us again and again
to see with your eyes.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy God,
Our life, our mercy, our strength,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Praise and glory to our God, who saves us!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus,
who revealed to us your face,
your nature, your love.
Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when your kingdom was emerging
within us, among us, and through us.
He saw those who had been outcast
and invited them in to the feast;
he healed those whose demons kept them outside the circle
and lifted up the humble and lowly:
women and children, lepers and prostitutes,
foreigners and oppressors.
He ate with all, regardless of their station
and taught us to see in each person
the image of God,
the face of Christ,
the movement of the Holy Spirit.

On the night before Jesus died,
he had dinner with his friends.
And taking the bread,
he gave thanks, broke it
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over,
he took the cup, gave thanks to God,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you:
in this way my blood will be poured out

as a sign of the new covenant
available to all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering of love,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
visible signs of your invisible grace,
a sacred mystery that we carry with us
that unites us with you, with Christ, and with each other
as we pour ourselves out in love
to proclaim your Good News throughout the world.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, with the confidence of children of God,
and in all the tongues of every nation,
let us pray...

Breaking the Bread

To make the bread,
the grain must fall into the earth and die.
In dying, it lives and grows.
It is harvested, gathered, crushed, and mixed.
Each time it dies, it lives again.
The bread rises, bakes, cools, and is broken,
and in the breaking offers life to all.
So we, too, can expect to be transformed
so we, too, can come together
to find wholeness where we are broken,
to find unity where we are many,
to find life abundant in spite of the reality of death.

In the same way, the juice in this cup comes from seeds sown,
vines tended, fruit harvested and crushed.
And so, too, we claim the life-giving Spirit
that you pour out upon us
that you breathe into and through us
that you use to redeem us and the world.

In receiving these gifts,
may we make your life and your light visible
to this world that needs you so much. Amen.

Giving the Bread and Cup