WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: *The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast.*
Not a meal to nourish the body but to feed the soul.

All: **We receive the bread and the fruit of the vine**
connected to the ages:
to the saint of old who felt unworthy,
to the seeker eager to know God,
to the teenager who wonders what it's all about,
to the child who eats with unburdened faith.

One: *Woven into this time, the hopes and fears of generations.*
There is great joy here. No one is turned away, for God is the host!

SANCTUS Hymn 568 *John Weaver*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

COMMUNION PRAYER *(RESPONSIVE)*

We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. Jesus gathers and invites us to his table where, in bread and wine, He meets us and through Him we, who are different, are joined to each other. So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood. Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you. Come not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

This table belongs to Jesus. He met people like us at the table, heard their stories, and shared his. It was at the table that he deepened his friendship with poor folk and prostitutes, the business class, and puzzled bystanders. At the table, he shared profound insights into who God is and what God wants. And it was at the table, with bread and wine, that he initiated the sacrament we now celebrate.

So come to this table. Leave behind any baggage of arrogance or unworthiness. Do not think, 'This is not for me.' Think instead of Jesus saying, 'I am for you,' and accept his invitation to be the friend he cherishes and longs to feed.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATIONS Hymn 569 *John Weaver*

Christ has died.
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

In your mercy… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (praying together)

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: *On the night before he died.*

All: Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it, and said:

One: *"This is my body, the bread of life broken for you. Take and eat."*

All: And pouring the fruit of the vine into the cup, he blessed it, saying:

One: "This is my blood, the cup of compassion spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Holy Spirit, send energy upon these gifts, your bread, and your cup. God of all, send your Spirit to this place so that those gathered here, in this sacred moment, may know your presence. As we eat the bread and drink of the cup, make us one with the saints and our sisters, siblings, and brothers in faith around the world. Be with us, God, here and in every moment of our lives. Help us…

All: To know you. To be guided by the Holy Spirit. And to live Christ. Now and forever.

One: This is the feast prepared for you. Come and share for all is ready.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS *to the congregation*

Communion Music **Bread of the World** *trad. Scottish arr. Alan Bullard*

Bread of the world, in mercy broken, Wine of the soul, in mercy shed, By whom the words of life were spoken, And in whose death our sins are dead.

Bread of the world, in mercy broken, Wine of the soul, in mercy shed, by whom the words of life were spoken, And in whose death our sins are dead.

Look on the heart of sorrow broken, Look on the tears by sinners shed; And be your feast to us the token that by your grace our souls are fed.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(UNISON)*

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we know the presence of Jesus among us. Take us from this table, raised and restored, ready not to be served but to serve, in the power of the Spirit. Amen.