



The North Western Synod
of the **United Reformed Church**

Communion Service



God's grace and peace are with us all
We celebrate this feast with joyful hearts.

Communion Service

As we gather together tonight around the Lord's table we have to remember that Communion is a sacrament, a symbol and a sign. A sacrament in which we believe that Christ is really present, a symbol of God's saving presence in a suffering world, healing for brokenness, forgiveness, restoration and liberation. And a sign, something we do with Jesus 'until the Kingdom comes'. We, who are taking part in the Lord's meal should become a signpost of all that God promises: food in a world of hunger, peace and justice, a restored and healed creation, the embrace of God that envelops the world.

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Today, we are the guests of Jesus. He welcomes us, whoever we are and whatever we bring, and he will feed us at his table. Old or young, rich or poor, joyful or in sorrow, Jesus invites us to share bread and wine with him, to remember the story of his life and death, and to celebrate his presence with us today.

Our Prayer of Preparation – we pray together

Almighty God, who knows our thoughts and our needs, let your Holy Spirit, inspire us so that we will give our whole life in your hands, in just the way you gave your whole life in the hands of God, many years ago. We thank you God for our lives, it is a pure gift and we know that it must be given away as a gift. Help us to make a choice for gratitude, abundance, and appreciation beyond the self, but for the glory of your name. Let our lives be broken, that we can give it away, and that we don't protect it. Because you reminds us in John 12:24 "Unless the grain of wheat dies, it remains just a grain of wheat". It is the crushed grain that becomes the broken bread, becomes the active "Body of Christ." Amen.

Our Prayer of Thanksgiving – we pray together

Creator God,

we give you thanks for the all the gifts in this room, but also the gifts of the grain farmers, the bread bakers, the grape growers, the juice maker .

Redeemer God,

we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal, your birth, your life, your death and resurrection.

Sustaining God,

we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us, surrounding us and filling us with Divine life.

May this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us to join more joyfully with you as you work for a new Kingdom.

Our Prayer of Confession – we pray together

God tonight we can relate to Judas who betrayed you, Peter who denied you and the disciples who fell asleep when you asked them to pray with you. Forgive us Lord if we have not lived our lives as a signpost of your Kingdom. Forgive us Lord when we don't live Jesus-shaped lives by bringing justice, healing, forgiveness, liberation and reconciliation in a broken world. Thank you for being a merciful and gracious God. God is love and forgives us, through Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Narrative of The Lord's Supper

Hear the narrative of the institution of the Lord's Supper as it was recorded by the apostle Paul. St. Paul wrote:

"The tradition which I handed on to you came to me from the Lord himself: that on the night of his arrest the Lord took bread, and after giving thanks to God broke it and said: 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in memory of me.' In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and said: 'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood, shed for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it do this in memory of me.' For every time you eat of this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes."

The blessing and breaking of bread & pouring of wine

God says, now chew on this mystery! “Take this,” “eat and drink this”—not alone, but together “until I return,” and you will have the heart of the message, “a new covenant” of indwelling love that is not grounded in worthiness in any form, but merely in a willingness to participate and trust. It is an act of radical solidarity and responsibility much more than a prize for the perfect.

May the Holy Spirit come among all and make the ordinary Holy. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine, and upon your people, that Christ may be with us, and we may be made ready to live for you and to do what you ask of us, today, and every day to come.

As Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it and shared it with his friends and took the wine, gave thanks and poured it out, sharing it among his friends, we do the same in remembrance of Him.

The serving and sharing of bread & wine

The bread that we break is the communion of the body of Christ. The wine that is poured is the communion of the blood of Christ. The table is ready so come, eat and drink in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The bread is served

This is the bread of life, the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us eat and be renewed for His service. Amen.

The wine is served

This is the cup of life, the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us drink and be refreshed for His service. Amen.

Our Prayer after Communion

Most gracious God we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us and renewed us for your service. Now we give ourselves to you and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your Kingdom and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world as we remember now that you have no lips but ours, no hands but ours no feet but ours, no body but ours, we are your body, the body of Christ in the world Amen.

Communion Hymn

R&S 452

Let us break bread together in the Lord;

Let us break bread together in the Lord:

When we fall on my knees,
With the face to the rising sun,
O, Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together in the Lord;

Let us drink wine together in the Lord:

When we fall on my knees,
With the face to the rising sun,
O, Lord have mercy on me.