

Service of the Lords Supper

This is an open table. You do not have to have been baptized or be a member of this or any church to take part in this meal. We invite you to receive these gifts of life and blessing, given freely by a compassionate God.

Communion Hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” HFG #256

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. *[Refrain]*

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. *[Refrain]*

Deacon: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Deacon: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Deacon: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Rev. Nancy Spencer-Smith: Gracious One, we struggle with fear and greed that tempt us away from your original plan for us. We excuse ourselves from

responsibilities to our neighbors. We struggle to believe we have anything to offer to the whole. And at times we knowingly do harm to others for the sake of our own gain. You know our struggles, O God. And so, you sent us Jesus. In him we learn how to show up for one another. Jesus lived in service to collective well-being. He sought out those in need of community. He befriended the ones who were isolated. He challenged the structures that destroy. Through his life, you taught us that the same capacities live in us. We too can choose the way of service to collective life. You have given each of us gifts to play our part. The same spirit of courage that kept Jesus proclaiming love even in the face of death lives in us.

Rev: Words of Remembrance

One: We remember that Jesus took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it, to his disciples, saying take, eat this is my body which is given for you.

**Many: On the holy cross I see
Jesus' hands nailed fast for me.**

**On the holy cross I see
Jesus' feet nailed fast for me
Loving Jesus let me be**

**Still and quiet, close to you,
Learning all your love for me
Giving all my love to you!**

One: In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them saying, Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many.

**Many: The cup is full of blood-red wine
Made from the crushing and the bruising of the grapes.
By the loss of life, By the cutting down and the pressing,
The spirit is set free; Allowed to ferment, the Spirit is at work.**

One: Remember me,

Remember me, my crushing, my bruising

My three-day fermenting,

My rising...

This is the bread and wine that makes glad the hearts of all.

Many: Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again. Alleluia.

Sharing of the Lords Table

All are welcome at this table. Please come forward in two lines down the center aisle, take the bread and the cup from one of the deacons standing on either side. Please return to your seats down the outside aisles. If you are not able to come forward, one of our Deacons will bring the plate and cup to you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving