

***Justice-oriented communion liturgy written by Lexi Wurpts for Loop Christian Reformed Church, Chicago, Illinois***

**LET US CELEBRATE THE FEAST**

Pastor: Sisters and brothers, Jesus in his ministry on earth spent time with the marginalized, the outcast, sinners and people considered enemies. Friends, as we partake of this meal, let us see the table extending to all people of the city, and to all neighborhoods in the city. The table calls out to a world full of people—people that we are called to love and care for. We are to bring the table to them.

The table calls us to be a family, a transformed community in right relationship with one another and with God. Jesus, in commanding us to “do this in remembrance of me” instructs us that we are not simply remembering his sacrifice but are being called to follow his example in sacrificial living. We strive to emulate the Heavenly Banquet at which all will be satisfied, and no one will go away hungry.

**Invitation & Institution**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him by loving us and giving himself for us. On that night when he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: 'Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Remember me each time you do this.' After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: 'Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God.'

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor: It is right, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

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

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,  
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,  
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,  
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.  
When your people forsook your covenant,  
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;  
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory.  
Gather your whole church together to feast at the heavenly banquet,  
where peace and justice are revealed,  
that we, with all your people of every language, race and nation  
may share the feast and receive your presence.

Come, for all is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.

### **Communion**

*(The Lord's Supper is open to all baptized church members who are, or desire to be, a follower of Jesus Christ. Today we will celebrate the sacrament by forming a circle around the communion table and passing the bread and wine to one another with the words, "The Body of Christ, broken for you," and, "The Blood of Christ, shed for you.")*