

Adaption of Communion Ritual for Zoom and Livestreamed Services

From (Mennonite) *Ministers Manual* unless otherwise indicated

Setting the Table

- Spreading tablecloth, bringing bread, pitcher and cups, candle
- Background music (instrumental or vocal)

Invitation (Adapted from *Words for Worship 2* #120)

Leader 1: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! We have come from east and west, north and south to eat at the Lord's table.

Leader 2: Come, you who hunger,
filled with wanting and waiting.

Leader 3: Come, you who thirst
for the peace of Christ.

All: Come to the table of the Lord.

Leader 4: Come, not because you are worthy
to sit at Christ's table.

Leader 5: Come because you are willing
to serve at Christ's side.

All: Come to the table of the Lord.

Leader 2: For the Lord our God has gathered us here

Leader 3: and Jesus the Christ is our Host.

Leader 4: Come, you who are blessed;

Leader 5: Come, you who are broken.

All: Come to the table of the Lord.

Prayer of Preparation and Confession

(Adapted from the *Mennonite Minister's Manual* pp. 91–92 by Michelle Curtis)

Leader 1: Let us pray together with our eyes open, and when I gesture we will say together, ***these we lay down***.
Let's practice [gesture], ***these we lay down***.

Before we take the body of the Lord, before we share his life in bread and wine, we recognize those things we carry within us for which we are sorry: ***these we lay down***.
(silent prayer)

Leader 2: The words of hope we often failed to give, the prayers of kindness buried in our pride, the signs of care we argued out of sight: ***these we lay down***.
(silent prayer)

Leader 1 : Our narrowness of vision and of mind, our need for other folk to serve our will, and every word and silence meant to hurt: ***these we lay down.***
(silent prayer)

Leader 2: Of those around in whom we meet our Lord, we ask their pardon and we grant them ours; every contradiction to Christ's peace: ***these we lay down.***
(silent prayer)

Leader 1: Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast, we empty now our hearts and stretch our hands, and ask you to meet us here in bread and wine which you lay down.
Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Leader 2: In the name of Jesus, we assure you that you are forgiven, loved, and free. Amen.

People: In the name of Jesus, we assure you that you are forgiven, loved, and free. Amen.

Passing a sign of peace with those around you

Prayer

Leader: When we come to the prayer our Lord taught us, feel free to use your heart language. I will be using the word sins. Let's pray:

Holy God,
You formed the earth from chaos;
You molded us in your image.
With mercy higher than the mountains and grace deeper than the sea
you called and led your people.
When we chose to flee from you,
you came to us through Jesus,
and adopted us as your own.
With bread and wine, Jesus sealed your covenant with us.
Gathered at his table, we remember his life, lived and offered up for others.
In dying, he set us free from death.
In rising, he opened the way to eternal life.
Come now, Holy Spirit, upon us and this meal
that we might feed on Christ
and share his bounty with the world.
We ask this through our Savior,
who taught us to pray, saying: [together with microphones off]

***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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.***
(Lord's Prayer from Hymnal: A Worship Book #731)

Words of Institution for the Bread

(A leader will give instructions about holding the bread until everyone will eat together. The leader will go to the table, pick up the bread tray and will look at the camera. Then the words of institution are read.)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it [break bread] and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [Leader offers bread to the camera.]

Song: "Taste and see" refrain (*Sing the Journey* 86) sung or played.

Leader: Eat, beloved, eat the Lord's Bread.

Words of institution for the cup

In the same way, Jesus took the cup also after supper [leader will pour juice into cup(s)], saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me." [Leader offers cup to the camera.]

Song: "Taste and see" refrain (*Sing the Journey* 86)

Leader: Drink, beloved, drink the Lord's Cup .

Closing Blessing

Leader 1: We have met from east and west and north and south to celebrate this feast.
May God's Spirit lead you into life in joy and praise.

Song: Hallelujah Pelotsa Rona/ Hallelujah, we sing your praises (*Sing the Journey* 88)

Notes for visuals

- Assembly of the visual needs to be big enough for worshipers to see, but also simple enough not to be over the top.
- Setting the table emphasizes the ritual and adds richness. This action is a silent "visual feast."
- Table needs - colorful tablecloth, large white candle in the center of the table, bread, cup, possibly pitcher

Unliced bread is best so that it is ready to be torn.

With Hope and Resilience: www.ambs.edu/publishing/hope-and-resilience/planning-easter-worship

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