

Outline of Homebound Communion Service

Greeting

Confession and Pardon

Reading of Scripture

Interpretation of the Word

Communion

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

GREETING

Elders and deacons should identify themselves with these or similar words:

We are N and N from Three Chopt Presbyterian Church. We have come to share the communion of your church.

Elders and deacons should take time to visit with the communicant. As you visit, listen for concerns and joys to remember in prayer. When all are ready for communion, prepare the elements by uncovering the bread and pouring the cup. Elders and deacons may invite others present to join in the service. When it is appropriate to begin a time of worship, the elder or deacon says,

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

The elder or deacon continues with these or similar words:

Jesus says: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt. 11:28, 29)

Or

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away. (John 6:35, 37)

Or

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. (Matt. 18:20)

Or

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. (Rev. 3:20)

The elder or deacon continues

When our congregation gathered this morning for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts of love, embodied in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, 'this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.'" We were also given assurance of the Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through our Communion in the body of Christ.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

The deacon/elder calls the people to confess their sins:

In the Lord's Supper, Christ is present by the power of the Holy Spirit, and offers us his body, broken for our sake, and his blood, shed for the forgiveness of our sins. As we prepare to receive this great gift, let us confess our sin and hear the promise of forgiveness.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

A brief period of silence may be observed for examination of conscience.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

Or

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

The reading from Scripture upon which the morning sermon was based may be read.

INTERPRETATION OF THE WORD

Pastors should supply the extended serving teams with a brief synopsis of the morning sermon, or teams may offer their own recollection of the proclamation of the Word.

COMMUNION

The bread and cup are given, saying:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, given for you.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Join hands to offer the prayer, if the physical circumstances are favorable. Specific prayers for the individual or the church may be added, concluding with the Lord's Prayer. Before leaving, identify the next date elders and deacons may return with communion. Normally, the visit should take between twenty to thirty minutes. Elders and deacons should be alert for signs of fatigue or discomfort in the communicant and should adapt the service accordingly.