



**A Communion Service  
developed for the Ecumenical Catholic Communion  
celebrating the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
in the absence of a priest**

*Planned by Michael J. Nicosia at the request of the Leadership Council of the ECC.*

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# THE COMMUNITY GATHERED

## Greeting

**LEADER:** ✠ Gracious One, come to our assistance.

*ALL: O God, make haste to help us.*

**Glory to you, Source of all Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,**

*ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

**Today we, the people of God,  
gather to bless, break open and share God's word  
revealed in our sacred texts and in the fabric of our lives.**

**We come united in prayer with our delegates at Holy Synod.  
Until that blessed day when we too can celebrate  
the Eucharist with our siblings across the ECC,  
we cannot contain our thanks and praise,  
nor can we fail to acknowledge that our eucharistic lives  
are joined with Christ's sacrifice  
as a blessing for the Church and the world.**

**And so we make our *[morning/evening]* worship,  
celebrating our unity in Christ.**

## Introductory Rite

**Blesséd be God, the Source and Ground of our Being.**

*ALL: Blesséd be God forever.*

**Blesséd be Christ Jesus, our Way, our Truth, and our Life.**

*ALL: Blesséd be God forever.*

**Blesséd be the Holy Spirit, the Power behind our Love and Service.**

*ALL: Blesséd be God forever.*

**As we enter into the mystery of our faith, let us call to mind our sins against God, against ourselves, and against each other.**

**Lord Jesus, you invite us to examine the baggage we carry.**

*Have compassion on us. ALL: Have compassion on us.*

**Christ Jesus, you look upon us with love & challenge us to let go.**

*Have compassion on us. ALL: Have compassion on us.*

**Lord Jesus, you promise to redeem our sacrifices a hundredfold.**

*Have compassion on us. ALL: Have compassion on us.*

**May the God of love and challenge have mercy on us,**

**✠ forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.**

*ALL: Amen.*

## **Opening Prayer**

**Let us pray: O God, whose word is our help and our guide,  
make wisdom the foundation of our lives  
that we may know what is essential and what is not  
on this path of following your Son Jesus Christ  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit  
one God now and every moment of our journey. Amen.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading: Wis 7:7-11**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

I prayed, and understanding was given to me.

I called on God, and the Spirit of Wisdom came to me.

I esteemed Wisdom more than power and privilege.

I held riches as nothing compared with Her.  
I did not liken Her to a precious stone – it is not Her equal.  
All gold is a pinch of sand compared with Her.  
Silver ranks as clay beside Her.

I loved Wisdom more than health or beauty.  
I preferred Her to the light; Her radiance never sleeps.

In Her company, good things came to me,  
at Her hands, wealth that cannot be counted.  
I rejoiced in all Her gifts!  
Wisdom is their source,  
though I had not realized She is their Mother.

The Wisdom of God. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

## **Responsorial: Psalm 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17**

**R. (14) Fill us with your love, and we will sing for joy!**

Teach us to consider our mortality, so that we might live wisely.  
Turn back toward us, O GOD! How long must this suffering last?  
Have pity on your servants! **R./**

Satisfy us in the morning with your loyal love!  
Then we will shout for joy and be happy all our days!  
Make us happy in proportion to the days you have afflicted us,  
in proportion to the years we have experienced trouble! **R./**

May your servants see your work! May their children see your majesty!  
Sovereign God, extend your favor to us! Make our endeavors successful!  
Yes, make them successful! **R./**

## **Second Reading: Heb 4:12-13**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

My siblings in Christ:

The word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is able to judge the desires and thoughts of the heart.

And no creature is hidden from God, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of the One to whom we must render an account.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

## **Gospel Acclamation (Mt 5:3)**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel: 10:17-27**

A proclamation of the Good News according to Matthew.

As Jesus started on his way, someone ran up to him and fell on bended knee, asking. "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except One, God. You know the commandments: 'Don't murder. Don't commit adultery. Don't steal. Don't lie. Don't cheat. Honor your father and mother.'"

The petitioner answered: "Rabbi, all these I have kept since my childhood."

Jesus looked at, and loved the person before him. “One thing you lack,” Jesus said. “Go. Sell all that you have. Give it to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then, come, follow me.”

At Jesus’ response, the one who asked the question became crestfallen and went away grieving, for they had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, “How hard it is for those who are rich to enter the kin-dom of God!” The disciples were perplexed at these words. Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kin-dom of God! It’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kin-dom of God.” The disciples were even more stunned, and said to themselves, “Who, then, can be helped?” Looking at them, Jesus said, “For humans, it is impossible, but not with God. All things are possible with God.”

Then Peter spoke up, “Rabbi, we've left everything to follow you!” Jesus replied, “Yes. Indeed, no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or land for me and for the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land—persecutions too—and in the age to come, everlasting life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Good News of our salvation in Jesus the Christ.

*ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **Reflection**

## Profession of Faith used at Holy Synod

(based on "Our Truth" by Fr. Michael J. Nicosia and Philippians 2:6-11) <Slide

**PRESIDER:** While echoing the ancient creeds of our faith, using fresh words to articulate our core beliefs helps us to bring it into dialogue with our present experience of God's activity in our midst. Together we profess what we have received, as it continues to unfold in our midst.

*ALL: We believe in God, our Mother out-pouring, our Father uniting, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and yet to be revealed.*

*Jesus the Christ, although divine in essence, disregarded the image of a lofty God. Instead, Jesus poured himself out, taking on the mantle of a servant.*

*Born, human in essence, human in every way, Jesus humbled himself, accepting death on a cross.*

*Yet even in this, God brought forth new life.*

*God gave Jesus the name above all other names, so that all will honor the name of Jesus,*

*in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

*so that every tongue will proclaim*

*that Jesus the Christ lives and reigns*

*with peace and love, for the glory of God.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth and giver of life,*

*who with the Father and the Son models equality in diversity and the blessings that proceed from self-giving love.*

*With the Father and the Son, She is worshiped and glorified.*

*We believe in the ways She unites us:*

*through her prophetic challenge,*

*through the Body of Christ, the Church,*

*in our shared baptism, in our sacrifices on behalf of others,*

*in our hope in the resurrection,*

*and in the fulfillment of God's promise in eternity. Let it be so.*



## Prayers of the People

**Our faith makes a difference when we live our care and concern for others.**

**Let us join our siblings at Synod in praying for the needs  
of the Church and the world.**

*READER:* Our response will be “Listen to your people” in Spanish:  
“*Óyenos mi Dios.*” *ALL: Óyenos mi Dios.*

1. We spread the light of Christ through the way we are church together.  
May our Communion’s compassion, care and advocacy  
give glory to God, bring light to the entire household of faith,  
and give witness to those who are searching for faith’s relevance.  
For this we pray: *Óyenos mi Dios.*
2. A hallmark of our ECC life is to strive to inclusively engage  
in holy conversations, wherein every voice is heard and valued.  
May our example inspire civil discourse and the pursuit of the common good.  
For the healing of our nation, we pray: *Óyenos mi Dios.*
3. When we care for the sick or any who are sore oppressed,  
God hears their cry for help and is present to them.  
May healing spring up quickly for those God has placed in our care,  
we pray: *Óyenos mi Dios.*
4. For all our dearly departed and for those who mourn their passing.  
May Christ’s light dawn, and may glory be revealed; we pray: *Óyenos mi Dios.*
5. For whom else or what else shall we pray?  
... we pray: *Óyenos mi Dios.*

**All-vulnerable God, in his crucifixion your Son became one with his siblings  
who are naked and defenseless.**

**Hear these prayers and empower our voices and service  
on their behalf. All this we ask and can do in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## **The Prayer of Jesus**

**Let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught us.**

*ALL: Our Parent, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy Name. Your kin-dom come, your 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.*

**As a mother comforts her children,  
comfort us and grant us peace in our day.  
In your compassion correct our missteps  
and keep our torches burning brightly  
as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of  
our Savior and brother, Jesus Christ.**

*ALL: For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

## **Sign of Peace**

**As a sign of Communion's unity across the miles,  
let us now offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.**

## **Collection for the Mission of the Church**

**LEADER: Most generous God, source of every good,  
bless these offerings and all of our commitments  
for the advancement of your just reign. ALL: Amen.**

## **Act of Thanksgiving before the Reserved Sacrament**

*(based on the PREFACE OF INCLUSIVE UNITY used at Synod 2024, by Michael J. Nicosia © 2024)*

*Antiphon: Manifold is love's reward.*

*ALL: Manifold is love's reward.*

**Holy God, Holy and Inclusive, Holy and Immortal One,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks  
through Your Son, Jesus the Christ.**

**Through Christ you bring us the challenge of the Good News,  
that we may be united by one faith and one baptism  
to become Christ's Body working with your grace,  
that our wounded world might be transformed.**

**Yet even before Jesus' coming,  
having created all things through your Word,  
Christ's love animated all that is  
and your Holy Spirit flowed to all peoples,  
continually inspiring us to live as one family in love.**

**How marvelous is the unity that She creates from our diversity,  
as She dwells in the hearts of your children,  
each anointed to be a blessing to the rest.**

**Grounding us and guiding us with her Wisdom and challenge,  
we can live up to the full potential that unity affords!**

**Glory to you, Source of all Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

*Antiphon: Manifold is love's reward.*

*ALL: Manifold is love's reward.*

## **Invitation To The Table For All**

**Our Family in Christ:**

**In the Ecumenical Catholic Communion we acknowledge that  
this Sacrament is the source and substance  
of our kinship with Christ and one another.**

**The invitation to receive Christ's body and blood is open to all.**

**For as the Scriptures tell us:**

**They will come from every race,  
nation, tribe, and way of life  
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.**

**Come, share the feast which the Christ has prepared for us.**

## **COMMUNION**

### **Closing Prayer**

**Let us pray.**

**God of Wisdom, your life-giving Word comes alive through the gift of your Son.**

**As with this heavenly food,  
may that Word may remain in us, directing our thoughts and actions.**

**Bless the remainder of our Holy Synod,**

**that the Wisdom revealed in its holy conversations  
may be our enduring reward,**

**that we may be better bearers of the fire that gives light to the world.**

**This we ask and can do, empowered by your Spirit, in Jesus' name. *Amen.***

## **Blessing**

**May God bless us and keep us. *Amen.***

**May his face shine upon us and be gracious to us. *Amen.***

**May she look upon us with kindness, ✠ and give us her peace. *Amen.***

## **Dismissal**

**Let us go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit**

**to love and serve the God and one another. *ALL: Thanks be to God.***

## **Closing Hymn**