



2016 GEORGIA PASTORS' SCHOOL

OPENING COMMUNION

Blue letters indicate the words that are to be placed on the screen.
Between each of the 'slides' with these words, a 'slide' with background only is up.

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNIONⁱ

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites us to dust off our feet and unburden our hearts.
He calls us without credentials, requirements or reservation,
 asking only that we release our fears, our failure, our doubts, our struggles,
 and our tears to Him.

He calls us to see for ourselves what He already knows:

 All persons are made in God's image

 All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God;

He will renew and revive us all;

 refresh and replenish us all.

For Christ is the one that is faithful

He is here to give us abundant life.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters in ministry let us humbly confess:

CONFESSION AND PARDON

O merciful God,

we confess that we have not recognized you

as the source of our successes, our substance, our selves.

We have been far more ready to complain or blame

when things go wrong

than to praise You when all is well.

We have cared more for junk food than soul food.

**Appointment and compensation have assumed greater importance to us
 than call and service.**

We have allowed religious words and forms to substitute

for living, loving encounters with all people

for you have set no bounds on whom you have called us to love.

Forgive us, compassionate Redeemer,

and renew us again for life and ministry.

Guide us, Holy Spirit in the way of life,

that we may rejoice in the work you have set for us.

By your guidance, direct us away from the mistakes of the past,

and relieve us from the fear of failure,

so that we will be bold to celebrate your love.

In the name of Christ,

we offer this prayer. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news:
Christ knows us fully, and loves us fully even so,
Jesus gave his life that we might have life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

OFFERING

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Usher collect the offering while special music or a hymn is sung.

The ushers consolidate offering into two plates and prepare to process, leading
communion servers who will carry bread and chalice.

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Different hymn or song accompanies the procession/giving of offering followed by
servers carrying bread and cup to the Lord's Table.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you God of all creation,
Source of all mercies,
Fount of love and delight beyond all measure
It is fitting and right to give you thanks and praise,
and to adore you with grateful hearts and voices.
For wondrously you create anew each day,
calling us also to renewed life.
For You formed us as your image of love in the world.
And even when we distorted your image
you called us back again and again,
forgiving us,
delivering us from captivity to sin and death,

feeding, healing, reconciling, making covenant,
and setting before us the way which leads to life.
You have delighted in us, enjoyed us and invited us
to join with all the saints, all creation, and all the company of heaven
in our glad song of unceasing praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.
God of Power and Might
Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory.
Hosanna in the Highest
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed be your name, gracious God,
for you gave us Jesus, who emptied himself that we might be filled,
who suffered and died that we might live.
He fed the hungry,
healed the afflicted,
and ate with the scorned and forgotten of this world.
He washed his disciples' feet and gave a holy meal
as a feast of his ever-present love.

On the night he gave himself up for us and for the world,
He sat at table with those who would desert and deny him.
Taking the bread, he gave thanks to You, His Father in Heaven,
He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

As the supper came to an end, He took the cup, gave thanks to You,
And gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Drink from this, all of you; for this is the blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering Christ's life of ministry and service,
his suffering, death and resurrection,
his ascending to glory
and his abiding presence through the power of your Holy Spirit,
we come in praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here in Christ's name,

and upon these gifts, that they may be for us his body and blood;
and so feed us with his grace that, in union with Christ,
we may become a living offering to you.

Transform us into the image and likeness of Christ,
that we may faithfully serve others in His name,
and look forward to the final feast
where all shall be gathered as one at your table,
and all things shall be well.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all
honor and glory and blessing is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence given us as children of God, let us pray together:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as in heaven
Give today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD & CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Let us pray:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery

**in which you freely gave yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
with the joy of your love and
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ⁱ Communion Liturgy by Reverend Beverly W. Casstevens greatly influenced by the communion liturgies of clergy memorial services.