

The Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper

Wesley's Sunday Service – 1784

*The Table at the Communion-time, having a fair white Linen Cloth upon it, shall stand where Morning and Evening Prayers are appointed to be said. And the Elder, standing at the Table, shall say the Lord's Prayer, with the Collect following, the People kneeling.*

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 trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
*Amen*

*The Collect*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit that we, may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name, through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*Then shall the Elder, turning to the People, rehearse distinctly, all the TEN  
COMMANDMENTS: and the People still kneeling shall, after each Commandment, ask God  
Mercy for their Transgression thereof for the Time past, and Grace to keep the same for the Time  
to come, as followeth:*

*Minister*

God Spake these words, and said, I am the Lord thy God: Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the image of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth, Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them: for I the lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shew mercy unto thousands in them that love me, and keep my commandments.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in vain.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath-day. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt do no manner of work, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy man-servant, and thy maid-servant, thy cattle, and the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day and has hallowed it.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Thou shalt do no murder.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Thou shalt not commit adultery.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Thou shalt not steal.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Minist.* Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is his.

*People.* Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

*The shall follow this Collect*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, we are taught by thy holy word, that the hearts of the Princes of the earth are in thy rule and governance, and that thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemeth best to thy godly wisdom; we humbly beseech thee so to dispose and govern the hearts of the Supreme Rulers of these United States, our Govenors, that in all their thoughts, words, and works, they may ever seek thy honour and glory, and study to preserve thy people committed to their charge, in wealth, peace, and godliness. Grant this, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then shall be said the Collect of the day. And immediately after the Collect, the Elder shall read the Epistle, saying, The Epistle [or, The Portion of Scripture appointed for the Epistle] is written in the – Chapter of – beginning at the – Verse And the Epistle ended, he shalt say, Here endeth the Epistle. Then shall he read the Gospel, (the People all standing up) saying, The Holy Gospel is written in the – Chapter of – beginning at the – Verse.*

*Then shall follow the Sermon*

*Then shall the Elder say one or more of these Sentences.*

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. *Matth.* v. 16.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. *Matth.* vi. 19,20.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do unto them; for this is the law and the prophets. *Matth.* vii. 12.

No every one that saith unto me; Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. *Matth.* vii. 21.

Zaccheus stood forth, and saith unto the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have done any wrong to any man, I restore him four-fold. *Luke,* xix. 8

Who goeth a warfare at any time of his own cost? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? *1 Cor.* ix. 7.

If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we shall reap your worldly things? *1 Cor.* ix. 11

Do ye not know, that they who minister about holy things, live of the sacrifice? and they who wait at the altar, are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord also ordained, that they who preach the Gospel, should live of the Gospel. *1 Cor.* ix. 13,14.

He that soweth little, shall reap little: and he that soweth plenteously, shall reap plenteously. Let every man do according as he is disposed in his heart; not grudgingly, or of necessity : for God loveth a cheerful giver. *2 Cor.* ix. 6, 7.

Let him that is taught in the Word, minister unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap. *Gal.* vi. 6,7.

While we have time, let us do good unto all men, and especially unto them that are of the household of faith. *Gal.* vi. 10.

Godliness with contentment is great gain: for we brought nothing into the world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. *1 Tim.* vi. 6,7.

Charge them who are rich in this world, that they be ready to give, and glad to distribute, laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may attain eternal life. *1 Tim.* vi. 17, 18, 19.

God is not unrighteous, that he will forget your works and labour that proceedeth of love; which love ye have shewed for his Name's sake, who have ministered unto the saints, and yet do minister. *Heb.* vi. 10

To do good, and to distribute, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. *Hebr.* xiii. 16.

Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 1 *John*, iii. 17

Be merciful after thy power: If thou hast much, give plenteously: If thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little : for so gatherest thou thyself a good reward in the day of necessity. *Tob.* iv. 8, 9.

He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth unto the Lord; and low what he layeth out, it shall be paid him again. *Prov.* xix. 17.

Blessed is the man that providedeth for the sick and needy: the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble. *Psal.* xli. 1.

*While these Sentences are in reading, some fit person appointed for that purpose, shall receive the alms for the poor, and other devotions of the people, in a decent Bason, to be provided for the purpose; and then bring it to the Elder, who shall place it upon the Table.*

*After which done, the Elder shall say,*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here on earth.

Almighty and everlasting God, who, by thy holy Apostle, hast taught us to make prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully [*\*to accept our alms and oblations and,*]<sup>1</sup> to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant that all they that do confess thy holy Name, may afree in truth of thy holy word and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governors; and especially thy Servants the Supreme Rulers of these United States; that under them we may be godly and quietly governed: and grant unto all that are put in authority under them, that they may truly and indifferently administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all the Ministers of thy Gospel that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this Congregation here present; that with meek heart and due reverence they may hear and receive thy holy word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, ot comfort and succour all them, who in their transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any adversity. And we also bless thy holy Name, for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

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*\* If there be no alms or oblations, then shall the words [of accepting our alms and oblations] be left unsaid.*

*Then shall the Elder say to them that come to receive the Holy Communion.*

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

*Then shall this general Confession be made by the Minister in the Name of all those that are minded to receive the Holy Communion, both he and all the people kneeling humbly upon their knees, and saying,*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; And grant, that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then shall the Elder say,*

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto thee; Have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then all standing, the Elder shall say.*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him:

Come unto me, all ye that are burdened and heavy-laden, and I will refresh you. *Matth. xi. 28*

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John iii. 16*

Here also what St. Paul saith:

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 *Tim. i. 15.*

Hear also what St. John saith:

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins. 1 *John, ii. 1, 2.*

*After which the Elder shall Proceed, saying,*

Lift up your hearts.

*Answ.* We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Elder.* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*Answ.* It is meet and right, so to do.

*Then shall the Elder say,*

It is very meet, right, and our bouden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father †<sup>2</sup>, Almighty, Everlasting God.

*Here shall follow the proper Preface, according to the Time,  
if there be any especially appointed; or else immediately shall follow;*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

*Proper Prefaces.*

*Upon Christmas-day.*

Because thou dist give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us, who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man, and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with Angels, etc.

*Upon Easter-day.*

But chiefly we are bound to praise thee for the glorious Resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord: for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which has offered for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again, hath restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Angels, etc.

*Upon Ascension-day.*

Through the most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, after his most glorious Resurrection, manifestly appeared to all his Apostles, and in their sight ascended up into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is thither we might also ascend, and reign with him in glory. Therefore with Angels, etc.

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<sup>2</sup> †These Words [*Holy Father*] must be omitted on Trinity Sunday.

*Upon Whitsunday.*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; according to whose most true promise the Holy Ghost came down, as at this time, from heaven with a sudden great sound, as it had been a mighty wind, in the likeness of fiery tongue, lighting upon the Apostles, to teach them, and to lead them to all truth; giving them both the gift of divers languages, and also boldness, with fervent zeal, constantly to preach the Gospel unto all nations, whereby we have been brought out of darkness and error, into the clear light and true knowledge of thee, and of thy Son Jesus Christ. Therefore with Angels, etc.

*Upon the Feast of Trinity*

Who art one God, one Lord; not only one person, but three persons in one substance. For that which we believe of the glory of the Father, the same we believe of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, without any difference or inequality. Therefore with Angels etc.

*After each of which Prefaces shall immediately be said,*

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. *Amen.*

*Then shall the Elder, kneeling down at the Table, say in the Name of all them that shall receive the Communion, this Prayer, following; the People also kneeling.*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

*Then the Elder shall say the Prayer of Consecration as Followeth:*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there (by his oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death until his coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that we, receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood:

who, in the same night that he was betrayed\*<sup>3</sup> took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it †<sup>4</sup>; and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; ‡<sup>5</sup> this is my Body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

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Likewise after Supper §<sup>6</sup> he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins: Do this as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. *Amen.*

*Then Shall the Minister first receive the Communion in both kinds himself, and then proceed to deliver the same to the other Ministers in like manner, (if any be present) and after that to the People also, in order, into their Hands. And when he delivereth the Bread to any one, he shall say,*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*And the Minister that delivereth the Cup to any one shall say,*

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

*If the consecrated Bread or Wine be all spent before all have communicated, the Elder may consecrate more, by repeating the Prayer of Consecration.*

*When all have communicated, the Minister shall return to the Lord's Table, and place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated Elements, covering the same with a fair Linen Cloth.*

*Then shall the Elder say the Lord's Prayer, the People repeating after him every petition.*

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 trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, For ever and ever. *Amen.*

*After which shall be said as followeth:*

O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants desire thy Fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

*Then shall be said,*

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good-will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

*Then the Elder, if he see it expedient, may put up an Extempore Prayer; and afterwards shall let the People depart with this Blessing:*

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.