

‘FEAST’: 11-14s Communion 2006 PRESIDENTIAL TEXT

(Common Worship Order One)

¶ *The Gathering*

Introduction

Introductory games/activities including bread making and guessing the ingredients. The congregation are told that the bread is to be food for tonight’s ‘Feast’, to which all are invited. It is good to say thank you for an invitation. The congregation learn to say, ‘Thank you’ in various languages.

The Greeting

Thank

*The leader introduces ‘5 words to remember’ – the first is **THANK**. The link between the Greek for thank you ‘efharisto’ and eucharist is made. The leader points out that the service is one big ‘thank you’ to God – first and foremost for ‘being with us’ so we say:*

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise. (Common Worship Prayer H, pp204-5)

We should also give thanks for the things God has done for us, so we say:

All **Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
But we turned away** (Prayer H)

We don’t always act gratefully. Images are used to show that God gave us a beautiful world and we mess it up (nature & pollution) and he gave us a good way to live but we mess that up too (image of people cooperating/having a good time together & fighting).

But even when we make a mess of things God doesn’t give up on us:

All When we turned away
you did not reject us
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.** (Prayer H)

Prayers of Penitence

The leader says that we need to ask God's forgiveness for the times we turn away and explains how the responses of the Kyrie work.

All For the times we don't appreciate the things you give us – Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

All For the times we don't treat people the way you want us to – Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

All We ask for your forgiveness – Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy. (Common Worship p170)

Accept

*The leader explains that we often find it hard to accept God's forgiveness. A story is told that portrays someone finding it hard to accept something good. The second word to remember is **ACCEPT** – the congregation are invited to accept God's forgiveness:*

May almighty God who sent his Son into the world to save sinners bring us his forgiveness and peace, now and forever. **Amen.** (Common Worship p135)

The leader says that as God sent Jesus to show us his forgiveness we need to say THANK YOU for Jesus. We could see this 'Feast' as a thank you party for Jesus, so

¶ The Liturgy of the Word (part one)

Gospel

If we were at a party to celebrate someone's life, we'd share reminiscences about that person. The leader asks the young people and adults together to spend some time sharing favourite stories of Jesus – stories which celebrate him and show why we're thankful for him.

The Creed

The leader explains that now we will share together one story of Jesus that we want to celebrate above all others at this feast:

Father, in Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin. (Prayer H)

All **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles;
this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.** (Common Worship p147)

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The leader points out that our beliefs (which we have just expressed in the affirmation of faith) link us to Christians throughout the world. As we exchange the Peace, we will make use of our 'thank yous' in various of languages to mark this fact, remembering as we do so that whenever we join in the 'feast' of the eucharist, we are eating with Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world:

Father, with your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you our sacrifice of praise,
lifting our voice to the eternal song of heaven:
All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

(Prayer H)

Those who share heaven's song share its peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Exalt

In a way our Christian 'family' throughout the world is like an international fan-club. A 'celebrity' game/activity takes place, followed by the point that we 'exalt' Jesus as our ultimate celebrity. Introduce **EXALT** as the third word to remember and finish with:

All **Jesus, you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Preparation of Table/ Taking of Bread and Wine/ Completion of Eucharistic Prayer

Leader says the congregation have celebrated Jesus their great 'celebrity' and invites them to think about how they 'feed on him' at his feast. They make recipes for 'spiritual food', bearing in mind the ingredients that went into the bread and considering what ingredients should be in their 'spiritual food'? In small groups they produce recipes on prepared cards that they can keep for future reference. The groups share some sample suggestions. The leader introduces the fourth word to remember as **FEED**.

Feed

The bread is brought out and the congregation reminded that it will feeds their spirits because of what it represents.

Two young people (YP) bring up the elements. One at a time they come to the table and stand with the president as the elements are consecrated.

YP 1 With this bread that we bring
All **we shall remember Jesus.** (Common Worship p292)

Pres. Father, on the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
Jesus took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.** (Prayer H)

YP 2 With this wine that we bring
All **we shall remember Jesus.** (Common Worship p292)

Pres. At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.
All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.** (Prayer H)

YP 1 Bread for his body,
YP 2 wine for his blood
YPs gifts from God to his table we bring.
All **We shall remember Jesus.** (Common Worship p292)

The young people and the president say together:

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
All **As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.** (Prayer H)

Collect and Lord's Prayer

The leader says that all is now prepared for the 'feast' and introduces these prayers as a kind of 'grace' before our meal.

All **Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us this meal as a reminder of
all you went through to show God's love to the world. Help us to
treasure this holy feast; to know that you have brought us close to
God; and to show God's love in our lives. Amen.** (cf Common Worship p 407)

Our Father in heaven ...

Breaking Bread

Pres. We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

(Common Worship p179)

Giving Communion

<p>Show</p>

*The final word to remember: **SHOW**. The elements show what Jesus did, and by taking them we show our acceptance.*

Pres. God's holy gifts for God's holy people

All **Jesus Christ is Holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

(Common Worship p180)

Communion or blessing is given.

Prayer after Communion

The leader points out that we usually say 'thank you' after a being invited to a meal, so:

All **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us**

with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. (Common Worship p182)

¶ The Liturgy of the Word (part two)**Sermon / Intercessions**

The leader recaps the five words to remember and points out that their initial letters spell FEAST. The congregation visit four stations (one for each letter except T) at which they can do a prayer activity based on one of the words (see last page for suggestions).

¶ The Dismissal

The congregation are drawn together for a final 'thanks' to God. Everyone chooses a language to say 'thank you' in, and all shout together. They are sent out in a spirit of thankfulness and celebration via the hot-chocolate stall.

Blessing

The leader says the hot choc is something sweet and nourishing to send them on their way and they'll get a card with a blessing on it with their hot choc – the 'dessert' to the meal!

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYER STATION ACTIVITIES

F = FEED:

Chew a pastille, asking God to grow in your life as you savour the taste.

E = EXALT

A washing line on which you hang 'God is great because' cards

A = ACCEPT

Votive candles to light as you pray for others to accept Jesus

S = SHOW

Use St Theresa's prayer, 'Christ has now hands on earth but yours' etc. Put post-its on parts of a body outline to show how you might use your heart, hands etc in serving Jesus. Conclude with: 'Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory' (cf Common Worship p 182)