**Celebrating Communion**

God be with you.

 **And also with you!**

Present your heart forth to God.

 **We open our hearts to God’s presence!**

Let us give thanks to God!

 **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Creator God, we praise you for all the goodness

you have sown in this world.

From the beginning of time, you have planted love in your Creation

In all of our relations: the rocks and trees, the skies and seas,

The birds, the fish, the plants and the animals, and the people.

We are in awe and wonder of all that you have done.

But you didn’t stop there! Not only did you sow the seeds of love,

You also tended the ground in which they grew.

Among the people, you raised up leaders who nurtured people through your dream.

You anointed prophets and judges to hold out your dream and sought to pull out the weeds from our hearts.

Yet we often left our gardens untended, forgetting your original call and hope.

All that was created you intended and called to bear the fruit of life.

In remembrance of this original call, our hearts cry out to you.

**Holy, holy, holy God,**

**God of majesty and life,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Living God.**

**Sing:**  VU703 In the Bulb there is a flower (v.1)

Despite your tender care, we still didn’t get your dream,

So in the fullness of time, you revealed in the person of Jesus,

Who came into the garden of your world to grow among us.

Jesus showed us what truly good fruit looked like,

And he did something that no other had done before.

He loved so widely and fully that his life forces spread out

Like the sun’s rays nourishing life in all he touched.

Even though a bountiful harvest was freely given to all,

The parasites of fear and power rose in us,

 impeding our flourishing in your love.

On the night in which he was betrayed,

Jesus sat at the table with his followers and friends.

Celebrating the gifts of God’s love and freedom,

They shared a meal together.

As they ate, he took the bread of freedom and life,

Gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take this bread and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

Whenever you eat, remember me.”

And after supper, he took the cup of blessing, gave thanks to God,

And gave it to each of his disciples in turn, saying to them:

“Take this and drink. This is my life which is poured out for you

For the forgiveness of all.

Whenever you drink, remember me.”

In this simple meal, we see the full blossom of Jesus’ life,

Lived boldly and given freely.

Nothing could stop his sharing of himself.

Not even death could prevent love’s fruit.

And so we proclaim them mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,**

**And Christ will come again**

**So that his life and love might bear fruit in us.**

**Sing:**  VU703 In the Bulb there is a flower (v.2)

And so we join our hearts together in a moment of silent prayer

As we remember all whom you would have us share this meal with

And all that weighs on our hearts:

Pour your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, O God,

That we might be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ.

Dying to our old ways, may we rise to life anew.

Through your presence, may the garden of your Creation

 flourish and thrive,

and the fruits we bear nourish others.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,**

**In the unity of the Holy Spirit,**

**All glory is yours, God most holy,**

**Now and forever. Amen**

**Sing:**  VU703 In the Bulb there is a flower (v.3)

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

When we share the bread together,

We remember that Jesus was strongest and most powerful in his weakest and most vulnerable moments.

This broken loaf is the bread of life.

When we fill this cup, we remember the common cup

And the abundant blessings that have been entrusted to us.

This is the cup of blessing.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Gracious God, thank you for all the ways you nourish and replenish**

**our lives! For time spent with others at this table, for the life and**

**teachings of Jesus, and for your hope that grows daily in our hearts –**

**thank you! Today and always, may we follow in the Way of Jesus,**

**sowing seeds of grace in deep, bold and daring ways so that all**

**Creation might be nourished by your love. All of this we pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen!**