

THE HOLY COMMUNION,
also called the **LORD’S SUPPER** or the **EUCCHARIST**
for situations when children are present

prepared by the Liturgy Commission for trial use under Section 4 of the Constitution

Notes:

1. This version of the Second Order Holy Communion service from *A Prayer Book for Australia* has been prepared keeping in mind situations when children are present.
2. The language, as well as being direct, primarily employing verbs and nouns and avoiding subordinate clauses, draws on the scriptural theme of ‘shepherd’. The service may therefore be appropriate for occasions when the readings point to this theme.
3. No rubrics are included, but readings should be taken from an authorised lectionary, and suitable hymns included at appropriate places at the discretion of the minister. Where no explicit provision is made below, those set out in APBA Holy Communion (Second Order) apply.

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God, Shepherd of Israel, you have chosen us:

we come to you with love.

Lord Jesus Christ, you laid down your life for the sheep:

we come to you in faith.

Spirit of Peace, you bring us together as one flock:

we come to you in prayer.

Holy Trinity, one God,

we come to you in praise.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Jesus said: I came so that you may have life,
and have it abundantly.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

silence

Confident in God’s forgiveness, we pray:

**God our Shepherd,
we are lost in the darkness and danger of sin.**

**We are hungry and afraid,
and we cannot find our own way home.**

We are sorry for our sins.

Search for us,

save us,

forgive us,

and bring us back to life, we pray,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There is rejoicing in heaven when the lost are found,
and there is hope on earth when sinners turn to God in faith.
Through Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd,
who died and rose again to save us,
I declare to you:
Your sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit,
and keep us in the light of Christ,
now and for ever. Amen.**

We sing or say together "Glory to God in the highest" or another Song of Praise

The priest says the Prayer of the Day

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

After the readings from the scriptures other than the Gospel

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

When the Gospel reading is announced

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel reading

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene or Apostles' Creed

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

Intercessions are offered, concluding with

Generous God, you hear our prayers

and you provide for us

all the peace and protection we need.

Teach us to pray with confidence

and to trust in your blessings,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of peace

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We love to praise you, holy God,
for your beautiful world
and your wonderful ways.

You are the shepherd of your people.
You gave us good commandments
and you sent your messengers to guide us.
When we disobeyed you
or forgot you
and when we lost our way,
you came to our rescue every time.

And best of all,
the Son of God was born as Mary's child.
You gave us Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
When he died on the cross
so our sins could be forgiven,
the Shepherd gave up his life for the sheep.

But no evil power could defeat your truth and love in him.
You raised him from the dead
and gave him back to us,
to bring us life and peace for ever.

So we praise you, living God,
singing our song with angels and saints
and Christians everywhere:

**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.]

And now, Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you
for the meal you shared with us
on the night before you died.
You took the bread
and blessed it
and broke it
and gave it to your friends.
You said:
"This is my body.
Take it and eat it
in memory of me."

Then you took the cup of wine,
and blessed it,
and gave it to your friends to drink.

You said:
“This is my blood.
It is God’s guarantee that sins will be forgiven.
Every time you drink it,
do this in memory of me.”

So we do what you command us,
and we remember:
you lived and died,
you rose in glory,
you sent your Holy Spirit,
and you will come again
at the end of time
to bring us home to God.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Now, Holy Spirit, we praise you
because you help us pray.
Come to us in this celebration,
and make us your holy people.
Feed us at this table
with the body and the blood of Christ.

Make our faith grow.
Send us to be your messengers to the world.
Spread the Good News of Jesus
by our words, our actions and our love.

Teach us to praise the living God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
with every breath you give us:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me.

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Living God, Shepherd of your people,
thank you for gathering your flock
and for feeding us today.

Thank you for the company of all your faithful friends
to share the story and the meal.

**Send us on the journey of this week
with your power to protect us
and your Spirit to inspire us,
every step of the way.**

May the Good Shepherd bless you
with strong protection
and the food you need
to make you grow in body, mind and spirit.
And the blessing of the holy and glorious Trinity
be yours as well,
with power to pass these blessings on,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Appendix: a metrical version of the *Song of Praise*

Glory, glory in the highest!
God, we sing you joyful praise.
Peace on earth to all your people,
glad and grateful all our days.
Jesus, Lord and loving teacher,
Lamb of God, you came to save.
Take away our sin, and show us
how to live the life you gave.

You, O Christ, are with the Father,
you will hear us when we call,
you have sent your Holy Spirit,
poured out blessing for us all.
So we lift our hearts to love you,
give ourselves to you for good.
All your friends and faithful servants
praise the everlasting God.

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