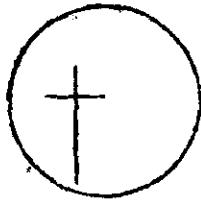


THE  
ORDER  
OF  
HOLY  
COMMUNION



## THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

(The People shall stand when the Minister enters and wherever else (\*) appears, and shall join in the capitalized portions.)

\*(M) In the name of God. Amen. Let us pray.

### The Collect

(M) O Lord, our God, who hast led us apart from the busy world into the quiet of this holy place, we would worship Thee in spirit and in truth, to the comfort of our souls and the upbuilding of every good purpose and holy desire. May we so seek that we will find, so ask that we will joyfully receive, so knock that the door to fullness of life will be opened unto us, and we attain that peace which is the end of our strivings. Amen

### The Ascription

(M) O Most High and Holy Life Divine, life completely and wholly given in the service of God, to thee belong praise, glory, and honor; therefore, with all the company of those who strive to know thee, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying:

### The Sanctus

\*(P) HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD OF HOSTS.  
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, IS THE LORD OF HOSTS.

\*(M) Before the Vision of the Life Divine let us confess our lives.

### The Confessional

(P) O THOU VISION WHICH COMES TO ALL MEN, THE VISION OF LIFE FULFILLED AND MADE WHOLE, IN THY PRESENCE WE CONFESS THAT WE FALL FAR SHORT OF THE FULLNESS OF LIFE. WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE THOSE THINGS WHICH WE OUGHT TO HAVE DONE. WE DWELL ONLY IN THE SHADOWS, WHILE

BEFORE US AWAITS THE GLORY OF LIFE AT ONE WITH ITS IDEALS. IN THE SECRET PLACES OF OUR HEARTS WE KNOW THAT IT IS THEE WE SEEK, AND WE DESIRE EVER ANEW TO GAIN THE HEIGHT OF DEVOTION TO THEE WHICH ALONE WILL BE OUR PEACE. AMEN

### The Words of Assurance

(M) Deep within us all there is a sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a divine center, a speaking voice to which continuously we may return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, arming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely to the light within, is the beginning of true life. It is a dynamic center, a creative life that presses to birth within us. It is a seed stirring to life if we do not choke it off. It is the Presence in the midst. Here is the slumbering God, stirring to be awakened, to become the soul we clothe in earthly form and action. And it is within us all.

### The Acknowledgment

(P) O THOU INDWELLING GOD, THE SPIRIT OF GOODNESS THAT IMPELS ALL THINGS, IT IS THY WILL IN US THAT WILLETH. IT IS THY DESIRE IN US THAT DESIRETH. IT IS THY URGE IN US THAT WOULD TURN OUR NIGHTS WHICH ARE THINE, INTO DAYS WHICH ARE THINE ALSO. THOU ART THE STRENGTH OF OUR LIVES, THE WAY TO THE LIFE DIVINE. MAY THE THOUGHT OF THY PRESENCE FILL US WITH INSPIRATION, AND MAY WE HERE KNOW THAT THROUGH THEE THE DUTIES SEEN IN MOMENTS OF VISION MAY BE FULFILLED. AMEN

(M) O Lord, open thou our lips.

(P) AND OUR MOUTHS SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

(M) Praise ye the Lord.  
(P) THE LORD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

The Doxology

\*(P) BE THOU, O GOD, EXALTED HIGH,  
AND AS THY GLORY FILLS THE SKY,  
LET ALL WITHIN US THEE ADORE,  
LET ALL WITHIN US FEEL THY POWER. AMEN

(Then shall the Lesson be read.)

The Creed

\*(P) I BELIEVE IN THE ONE, ETERNAL GOD WHO  
RULES ALL CREATION WITH ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY,  
HAVING A GOOD PURPOSE IN EVERY PROCESS OF  
NATURE, AND A GOOD INTENTION IN EVERY VOLITION  
OF MAN.

I BELIEVE THAT MAN'S SALVATION LIES IN  
CHEERFUL SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF GOD, AND  
THAT JESUS BEST EXEMPLIFIES SUCH HOLY OBEDIENCE.

I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL, AND IN  
THE POWER OF LOVE, THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER,  
THE STRENGTH OF FAITH, THE JOY OF SALVATION,  
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN

\*(M) The Lord is with thee.

\*(P) AND WITH ALL MANKIND.

\*(M) Lift up your hearts.

\*(P) WE LIFT THEM UP UNTO THE LORD.

\*(M) Let each true man go into silence, strip  
himself of all pretence and selfishness, and  
sensuality, and sluggishness of soul, lift  
off thought after thought, passion after passion,  
till he reaches the inmost depth of  
all, and there commune with God, who is the  
way to fullness of life.

(Then shall all enter into Silent Prayer,  
seated, at the conclusion of which the  
Minister will say: Amen and Amen.)

The Words of Preparation

(M) Almighty and Everlasting God, who art  
the divine power impelling all things, into  
the heart of man thou hast placed the eternal  
longing to be more than he is, and to do  
those things which will bring him peace. Before  
us all lies an undiscovered country that  
calls us unto itself. Only as we move into  
that land of promise will we find the peace  
we seek in our lives. Even more, thou hast  
given Thyself to our help, for thou hast  
chosen to dwell in our midsts, urging us on  
to the fulfillment of our hopes and desires.

We all seek to be made whole, and many  
there have been who have laid hold on the  
goals within their reach. Saints and prophets,  
humble men and women, have left lower  
levels to dwell on higher levels of living.  
They knew true peace and joy because they  
followed unreservedly the challenges life  
placed before them.

Unto us is given to know that which will  
bring harmony and integration into our lives.  
The challenge men must needs have lies before  
us. In this holy hour of consecration we  
would present ourselves to Thee, willing servants  
to that which we know to be highest and best,  
humble disciples of Thy high way of life. Amen

(M) I will take the cup of salvation;

(P) AND CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD.

(M) The Lord is our helper;

(P) WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

(P) 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 THOSE WHO 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

(Then shall the Minister receive Communion.)

### The Invitation

(M) If you intend to lead a new life, following the high purpose which you have seen, draw near and accept this sacrament to your strengthening. Offer thyself unto God and give thyself wholly for him, so shall thine offering be acceptable. Whatsoever thou givest beside thyself (saith the Lord), I care nothing for, for I ask not thy gift, but thee.

(Those wishing to commune shall go forward. The Devoted shall repeat after the Minister these words:)

(M) This is my life, given as a reasonable service to the fulfilling of my commitment.

(Then shall the Minister say:)

(M) Drink ye all of it, and live.

(M) Now may the blessed truth which thou hast seen confirm and strengthen thee in all goodness and bring thee to the fulness of life. Amen

(To those who did not devote themselves the Minister shall say:)

(M) The vision which thou hast seen shall not die, even though ye turn away from the fullness of life's strivings.

(Then may be offered Special Prayers.)

### The Benediction

(M) Now may the God of peace make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, and to him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen

(The People shall stand as the Minister leaves the altar, and be seated while the candles are extinguished.)

### ABOUT THIS SERVICE

This service is an attempt to restore to liberal worship the element of emotion which has always been a part of religion, and to provide opportunity for commitment or dedication which is the essence of religious living.

Man has within him an irresistible urge for wholeness, which is the creative God at work. Man acts upon those things which he has accepted emotionally, but since there are intellectual ideals that are beyond his present emotional basis for action, there is ever a tension between the ideal and the actual self. Worship is an attempt to emotionalize the unassimilated ideals that man might become a whole person and act upon his highest and noblest ideals.

Since worship is an emotional experience, symbols, ritual and other techniques are valid.

The altar is the visible replica of that sacred shrine within us, the dwelling place of our God.

The candles are symbolic of the inner flame of divine light that is within us all.

The Eternal Light is the symbol of the ever-present spirit of God.

The Cup symbolizes personal commitment demanded of everyone if life is to be whole.

Wine has always been the symbol of newness of life, to live to the fullest every moment.

The Circle expresses our belief in universal salvation, and the Cross our remembrance of Jesus' commitment to God.

Kneeling symbolizes humility; standing is a way to give praise; silence allows each to commune with his God.

This service is offered to the glory of God and for the enrichment of the human soul.