

POSITIVE RITES

Celebrating the Lord's Supper with people living with HIV

Some Christian communities have a formal celebration of 'the Lord's Supper'. This is often referred to as the Eucharist, Holy Communion or the Mass by Catholics. The following prayers can be adapted for celebration of the Lord's Supper.

1. CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Penitential Rite:

God calls us as a people where all are valued. We are called to bear witness to the Good News that no-one is a stranger or an outsider; that in Jesus all division and separation has been broken down. We are called to be one people and yet hardness of heart, discrimination and oppression prevent us from being whom God call us to be.

For this we seek forgiveness.

God of mercy and compassion, we often misrepresent you as a God of anger, yet you are the God of love, raising us all to life: and so we ask:

R. JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM. (Said/sung - Taize)

Lord Jesus, you banish the fear and uncertainty that holds us back, in responding to the needs of all who are living with HIV. When we falter, encourage us and strengthen us; and so we ask:

R. JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM. (Said/sung - Taize)

Spirit of unity, you build us up when we fall down; you gather in when we exclude; you affirm when we condemn; and so we ask:

R. JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM. (Said/sung - Taize)

Opening Prayer:

God, our Creator and Redeemer, by your power Christ conquered death and returned to you in glory. May all your people who have gone before us in faith share His victory and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever, where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word:

Suggested readings:

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39, or Apocalypse 7: 9, 14-17.

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John 6: 37–40 or Mark 5: 25–34.

Bidding Prayers:

Creator God, open our hearts and minds to see you not only in power and glory, but also in weakness and rejection, so that as we pray, we may have that mind in us which was in Christ Jesus who walked as a poor man among us for our sake.

We pray that in the midst of this world and before the eyes of all people with whom we are united in our common humanity, we may live the good news of God's reign.

R. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We give thanks for the Gospel of healing, wholeness and liberation which is preached to the whole Christian community through the lives of those living with HIV. We pray that we may be open to receive this gift.

R. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

As we listen to the words of all who live with HIV, may we become more aware of their hopes and needs. May we recognise that as one part of the body is gifted with life, healing and wholeness, so is the whole.

R. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We remember all those in this country and across the world living with HIV. We give thanks for all who care for people living with HIV. We pray for all those involved in research and medical care that in their work they may always respect the precious dignity of the human person.

R. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We remember those who have died and whose faith is known to God alone.... (members of the congregation are invited to name silently or aloud those they wish to pray for).

R. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

As we prepare to share the gifts of God for the people of God, may we recognise that it is the body of Christ living among us, living among us with HIV. It is the image of Christ that is forgotten in prejudice and discrimination. May our prayers in this celebration of the Lord's Supper enable us to see in all of those affected by HIV, a the place where God is most powerfully at work, in Jesus Christ our Lord . Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts:

Lord, receive the gifts we offer to win peace and rest for our brothers and sisters. By this celebration of the Lord's Supper, which reminds us of our liberation and salvation, count them among those whom you have freed from death. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Prayer after Communion:

Lord, we receive your promise of liberation and salvation which we call to mind in this celebration of the Lord's Supper. May this celebration be the sign of your loving care and mercy for your people on earth, and a source of eternal joy for our departed sisters and brothers. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal:

The heritage of GOD's kingdom is prepared for you and for all people who seek the Lord and serve him where he has declared his presence, especially amongst those in need. I invite you now to declare your readiness to serve Christ in the many faces of HIV.

We promise to serve the Lord as he taught us: in all women and men, especially those who are considered the least of his sisters and brothers, so that sharing his poverty and labour, we may also share his glory.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

2. SHARED RIGHTS - SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction:

As people of God we are conscious of our unity, not only through our baptism, but through our common humanity. In the Body of Christ we recognise that each part of the body is different yet inter-dependent. When we say that the Body of Christ is living with HIV we affirm our belief that Christ takes to himself all our fears, our hurts, our anxieties, our hopes and our joys. We, members one of another, share with our sisters and brothers who live with HIV a common commitment to promote the human dignity and rights of all through our shared responsibility.

Penitential Rite:

Reader: I saw all the oppressions that are committed under the sun... the tears of the oppressed and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power and they had no one to comfort them. (Eccles. 4:1).

Celebrant: When as a faith community we have abused our power, failing to confront the many faces of oppression, particularly those which discriminate against or stigmatise those who live with HIV: Lord, have mercy (or similar)

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: You are the ones who destroy the vineyard, hiding what you have stolen from the poor. By what right do you crush my people, grinding the faces of the poor? (Is. 3: 14/15)

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Celebrant: When we fail to challenge the inequality and injustice which prevent us from living positively with HIV: Christ, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy.

Reader: God's spirit is upon us, for we are anointed to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to captives, release to prisoners, to comfort all who mourn, to lighten a heavy heart. (Is. 61: 1-3)

Celebrant: For our failures to recognise our shared responsibilities, and our selective acknowledgement of others' rights and dignity: Lord, have mercy

All: Lord have mercy.

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, you have given all peoples one common origin, gathering us as one family in yourself. Fill our hearts with the fire of your love and the desire to ensure justice for all our sisters and brothers. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure justice and equality for every human being, an end to all division, and a human society built on love and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Liturgy of the Word: Suggested readings Genesis 4:

8-16

Romans 8: 14-30

Romans 14: 7-13

1 Corinthians 10: 16-17

Luke 10: 25-27

Bidding Prayers:

Celebrant: Creator God, open our hearts and minds to see you, not only in power and glory, but also in weakness and exclusion, so that as we pray we may have that mind in us which was in Christ Jesus, who walked among us as a poor man.

Reader: We pray that in the midst of this world and before the eyes of all people with whom we are united in our common humanity, we may live the good news of God's reign. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We give thanks for the gifts which people living with HIV bring before our community and our world. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: As we listen to the words of all who live with HIV may we become more aware of their needs and their hopes, their anxieties and

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their joys. May we recognise as one part of the body is gifted with life, healing and wholeness, so is the whole body which is the community of believers. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We remember all those in this country and across the world living with HIV. We give thanks for all who care for people living with HIV. We pray for all those involved in research and medical care that in their work they may always respect the precious dignity of the human person. Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We remember those who have died and whose faith is known to God alone.... (members of the congregation are invited to name silently or aloud those they wish to pray for). Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Prayer over the Gifts:

God of love, hear the prayer of those who call on you in this offering of your church. Fill us with your spirit so that all in justice may be overcome by love and one human family is established in your peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, you renew us with the one bread that restores us as one body, one people. As we share this Supper of the Lord, fill us with a strong and unselfish love that together we may work for the progress of all peoples and lovingly bring the work of justice to perfection. We ask this through Christ our Lord.....

Blessing and Dismissal:

Celebrant: Let us go from this place assured that nothing can separate us from the love of God, committed to loving one another as God has loved us.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: We seek to be the Body of Christ revealing God's love to the world, celebrating God's justice.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: We are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to share not only

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our rights, but also our responsibilities.
All: Amen
Celebrant: May Almighty God bless you. Go in peace to serve the
Lord in his people
All: Thanks be to God

3. ONE WORLD - ONE HOPE

Introduction:

The theme of this celebration is "One World, One Hope". In the face of division, prejudice and discrimination we light this one candle, shedding light in many parts, a sign of sisterhood, brotherhood, unity and solidarity:
(A Candle is lit)

Reader: Let us remember those who live with HIV, let us remember loved ones, friends and family. Let us remember those who experience fear and anxiety. Let us remember those who have gone before us.
All: May the gentle light of Christ lead us and cast out fear.

Penitential Rite:

Celebrant: When we divide rather than strengthen the bonds of our common humanity in one world; Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.
Celebrant: When doubt and despair deadens our hopeful yearnings; Christ, have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.
Celebrant: When we fail to see healing grace and wholeness in our living and dying; Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.

Absolution:

Opening Prayer

God of hope, make us one, as our hearts desire the warmth of your love. As we search for the light of your Word, increase our longing for Christ so that strengthened in love and committed to justice, we may rejoice at the dawn of

his coming and welcome the light of his truth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word:

1st Reading.
Responsorial Psalm/Acclamation.
Gospel Reading
Homily.

Bidding Prayers

Celebrant: God of overflowing mercy and love, we come before you with sorrows and joys. We come with doubt and confusion, struggling to create one world in one hope. Let your loving justice inspire our hearts as we pray:

Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we walk together with all who live with HIV. Encourage our hearts and open our hands.

All: God of our hope, make us one.

Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we pray for all who live with, or are affected by HIV in so many different ways, giving us all quietness of spirit.

All: God of our hope, make us one.

Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we pray for all care-givers, researchers and those who seek to develop a cure for HIV.

All: God of our hope, make us one.

Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we commit ourselves anew to greater equality of access to information, treatment and care for all people with HIV across the world.

All: God of our hope, make us one.

Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we challenge poverty, ignorance and fear, prejudice and discrimination, particularly affecting those living with HIV.

All: God of our hope, make us one.

Reader: God of our hope, make us one with all those who have gone before us, whose living and dying with HIV have impacted upon us. May angels surround them and saints

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welcome them into peace.
All: God of our hope, make us one.

Reader: God of our hope, make us one with those who are anxious or afraid, that we may loosen that which would bind us and so be empowered in hope and liberation.

All: God of our hope, make us one.

Reader: God of our hope, make us one in the yearnings of our hearts as we pray (aloud or) in silence

Celebrant Holy, life-giving Breath of God, fill us with love; strengthen us in seeking justice, and open us to each other's needs. May we then celebrate the reality of your reign in one world, one hope, in Jesus, our hope of rising again, now and in the days to come.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Prayer over the gifts:

Nourishing God, we gather, one in hope, for your son, Jesus our brother, bids us draw near with gifts of bread and wine. As he sat at table with those who were welcome nowhere else, may our hearts be open to all, in spirit and in truth, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Prayer after Communion:

Generous God, you renew us with the one bread and one cup that restore us as one body. As we celebrate this mystery may we live in hope to bring the work of justice to perfection. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Dismissal and Blessing:

Celebrant: Face the world as people of hope, pointing to God's tomorrow of healing, wholeness and justice, for all people and for creation.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Face the world as one people, committed to unity and peace.

All: Amen

Celebrant: Face the world with the vision of God's glory discovered in all creation .

All: Amen

Celebrant: And may almighty God bless you.....

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Go in peace, hope and unity, to serve the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

4. SERVICE OF ANOINTING AND STRENGTHENING FOR PEOPLE WITH LIVING WITH HIV

Introduction:

Throughout the scriptures, the God of our ancestors has always been revealed in powerful signs and works. Through such events Christ called His disciples to be a community of love. In praying together, in sharing all things, and in caring for the burdened in their fellowship, they recalled His words: "In so far as you did this to one of these, you did it to me". We gather today to witness to the risen Christ in His healing power, that through this Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Anointing we may all be restored to health and wholeness, and anointed for service.

Blessing and Sprinkling of Water:

God's gift of water brings life to all creation and revives us in body and spirit. As we celebrate today we remember especially our baptism, and we seek to renew our lives with God's Spirit in our hearts, minds and actions.

Celebrant: Let us ask God to bless this water and keep us faithful to the Spirit He has given us:
God our Creator, hear the prayers of your people: We celebrate our creation and redemption.
Hear our prayers and bless this water which gives fruitfulness to the fields, and nourishes the Earth
Hear our prayers and bless this water which gives and refreshment and cleansing to your people.
You chose water to show your goodness when you led your people to freedom through the Red Sea and satisfied their thirst in the desert with water from the rock.
Water was the symbol used by the prophets to foretell your new covenant with the people you had chosen.
You made the water of baptism holy by Christ's baptism in the Jordan: by it you give us a new birth and renew us in holiness.

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May this water remind us of our baptism, and let us share the joy of all who have been baptised.

All: A men

Sprinkling with water with accompanying song.

Celebrant: May almighty God cleanse us and, through this Celebration of the Lord's Supper, make us worthy to sit at His table in His heavenly kingdom.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer:

Celebrant: God of mercy and compassion, you take every family under your care and know our physical and spiritual needs.
Transform our weakness by the strength of your grace and confirm us in your covenant so that we may grow in faith and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word.

1st Reading.

Responsorial Psalm/Acclamation.

Gospel Reading

Homily.

Liturgy of Strengthening and Anointing:

The Jewish/Christian tradition used the rite of anointing at many important points in the lives of individuals and communities. In its most basic forms it is used to strengthen: both for healing, for wholeness and for service. We are reminded that Jesus' acts of healing demonstrated that illness could be an occasion to show God's mercy and love for His people, and not a sign of punishment. We now seek that love and life of God without which we cannot be whole. Strengthened with the Spirit's anointing we set out to preach good news whatever our situation.

During the following litany the oil is blessed:

Litany: Let us pray to God for our sisters and brothers and for all those who devote themselves to caring for them.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer / or sung response.

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Bless us, fill us with new hope and strength and relieve our anxieties, our fears and our pain.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer .

Sustain and strengthen all who are fearful and all who are sick, and assist all who care for them, with your power.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Give life, health and peace to our brothers and sisters on whom we lay our hands in your name.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prayer Over the Oil:

Celebrant: Praise to you, God, the almighty Father.
You sent your Son to live among us and bring us salvation.

Praise to you, God, the only-begotten Son.
You humbled yourself to share in our humanity and to heal our infirmities.

Praise to you, God, the Holy Spirit, the Consoler.
Your unfailing power gives us strength in our bodily weakness.

Almighty God,
come to our aid and bless this oil
which has been set apart for the healing and
strengthening of your people. May the prayer of faith and
the anointing with oil free them from every affliction and
bring them courage and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Anointing and Strengthening:

We approach the ministers or leaders to be anointed.

The Minister or leader will first lay hands, and then anoint the forehead saying:

Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you and strengthen you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Then, anointing the hands, he says:

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May the Lord who liberates you from sin save you and raise you up to new life and wholeness.

Response: Amen.

A song or chant is sung during the anointing.

Prayer after anointing:

God our Creator and Sustainer, through this holy anointing, grant our sisters and brothers comfort and peace.

When they are afraid, give them courage.

When they doubt give them faith,

When they are anxious or experience pain, give them comfort.

When they are dejected, give them hope.

When they are alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Prayer over the Gifts:

Lord, we bring you these gifts,

In memory of the Lord's Supper.

In his name bring healing and wholeness, hope and peace;

And restore to us the joy of life renewed.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Prayer after Communion:

Lord, through this Celebration of the Lord's Supper you offer us the gift of healing and wholeness.

May this grace bear fruit among us and make us strong in your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing:

Celebrant: May the God of all consolation and mercy bless you in every way

and grant you hope all the days of your life.

All: Amen.

Celebrant May God grant you health and wholeness and may He

grant you salvation.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May God watch over you, keep you in his care, and bless you with his peace.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Our celebration is ended, let us go in peace to serve the Lord and one another.

All: Thanks be to GOD.

Closing Song.

‘Celebrating the Lord’s Supper with people living with HIV’ Adapted from Positive Rites - Liturgical Resources for World AIDS Day by John Thornhill