

HOLY COMMUNION

IN HOSPITAL

The sacrament which the chaplain will bring has been reserved at an earlier service of Holy Communion in the hospital chapel. He will bring the bread, but not the wine. The service at your bedside will be very short. Perhaps you will be able to make your own preparation, either the night before or while you are waiting for the sacrament, and your own thanksgiving afterwards. Though you may be receiving Holy Communion on your own, you will really be joining all the other Christian people in different parts of the hospital in offering the one service to God which is shared by the whole Church.

As you prepare, pray for yourself and for the others who surround you: patients, doctors, nurses, family, friends.

Remember God's love for you. Ask him to show you the ways in which you may have betrayed that love. Tell him what you have done wrong, or might have done better. Ask him to forgive you and to help you to break away from all the sins that separate you from him.

Accept God's love and his forgiveness. Ask him to help you to be ready to welcome him in his holy sacrament. Pray in your own words, or say:

Lord, I am not worthy to have thee under my roof; but speak the word only and thy servant shall be healed.

Jesus, by thy wounded feet
 Guide my feet aright.
Jesus, by thy wounded hands
 Keep my hands from wrong.
Jesus, by thy parched lips
 Curb my cruel tongue.
Jesus, by thy closed eyes
 Protect my wayward sight.
Jesus, by thy thorn-crowned brow
 Purify my mind.
Jesus, by thy pierced heart
 Knit my heart to thine.

Think of our Lord's words:

Come unto me, all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall never be hungry, and whoever believes on me shall never be thirsty.

I am that living bread which has come down from heaven: if anyone eats this bread he shall live for ever. Moreover, the bread which I will give is my own flesh; I give it for the life of the world.

You are invited to join in the words printed in heavy type.

When the chaplain arrives the service will begin with:

A PRAYER FOR INSPIRATION

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY, OR THE WEEK (*from the Prayer Book*)

Chaplain:

Let us humbly confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against thee and against our fellow-men, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life, to the glory of thy name. Amen.

God's forgiveness of those who are sorry for their sins:

Chaplain:

ALMIGHTY God, who pardons all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT

WE do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Chaplain:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Reply:

And also with you

Chaplain:

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

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. Amen.

The chaplain now gives you the sacrament, saying:

THE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving. Amen.

Or:

THE Body of Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

ALMIGHTY God, we offer thee our thanks for the gift of thy Son Jesus Christ in this sacrament. We offer thee our souls and bodies, to be a living sacrifice, through him. We ask thee for the strength of thy Holy Spirit, to live our lives to thy praise and glory. Amen.

THE BLESSING

THE peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Now, and later in the day, thank our Lord for his gift and his love.

THANKS be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given to me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend, and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, I thank thee for feeding me in this holy sacrament, and for keeping me thereby in the Body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people. And I pray that I may continue as a member of that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for me; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

PRAISE the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul: and forget not all his benefits; Who forgiveth all thy sin: and healeth all thine infirmities; Who saveth thy life from destruction: and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness.

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;
God be at my end,
And at my departing.

REMEMBER, O Lord, what thou hast wrought in us, and not what we deserve; and as thou hast called us to thy service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord.