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THE ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL OF SYDNEY

THE ORDER FOR  
**THE HOLY COMMUNION**  
A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHAPLAINS' DEPT.  
CELEBRANT: Rev. R. C. FOWLER, Th L.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE: This abridged service has been specially designed for patients who desire bedside Communion. It has been adapted from the Sunday Services Revised, approved by General Synod in 1972.

It will be noticed that the Apostles' Creed replaces the Nicene Creed to help keep the Service concise, while the Lord's Prayer is in the traditional form.

1. The priest  
prays this  
PRAYER OF  
PREPARATION

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

2. The priest recounts the TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS and the people ask God's forgiveness for their past transgressions, and the grace to keep God's laws in the future.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and  
with all your soul and with all your mind. This is  
the great and first commandment. And the second  
is this: love your neighbour as yourself.

**Lord, have mercy upon us; and write your law on  
our hearts by your Spirit.**

3. The APOSTLES'  
CREED is said by  
all

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead,  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty;  
from there he shall come to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

4. EXHORTATION

Draw near to him by faith, and take this holy  
sacrament to strengthen you; but first, examine  
yourselves and make a humble confession of your  
sins to almighty God.

5. All then say this  
GENERAL  
CONFESSION.

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men,  
we acknowledge the many sins we have  
committed against you.**

**The guilt is ours and we deserve your judgment.  
We are heartily sorry for all our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them grieves us;  
and the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake  
forgive us all that is past,  
and grant that we may serve and please you,  
living a new life to your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

6. The priest  
pronounces  
this  
ABSOLUTION

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who has  
promised forgiveness to all who confess their  
sins and turn to him in faith; have mercy on you;  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm  
and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you  
in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**AMEN.**

7. The WORDS OF  
ASSURANCE  
The priest says  
one or more of  
these sentences

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly  
turn to Christ:

Jesus said: Come to me, all who labour and are  
heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11.28

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but  
have eternal life.

John 3.16

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save  
sinners.

1 Timothy 1.15

8. The priest, or the  
priest and people  
together, say

We do not presume  
to come to your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your  
table.

But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
**Amen.**

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9. The priest takes the bread and wine

and says this  
**PRAYER OF  
CONSECRATION**

Hear us, merciful Father, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

1 here the priest  
takes the bread  
in his hands  
2 he breaks the  
bread  
3 he lays his hand  
on the bread

For on the night he was betrayed he took bread<sup>1</sup>, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it<sup>2</sup>; he gave it to his disciples saying<sup>3</sup>, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me'.

4 he takes the cup  
in his hand  
5 he lays his hand  
on the cup

Likewise after supper he took the cup<sup>4</sup>, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them saying<sup>5</sup>, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'.

All answer

**Amen.**

10. THE COMMUNION The priest now shares the Bread and Wine with the communicants.

When he gives  
the bread he  
says

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.

When he gives  
the cup he says

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was poured out for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

When all have communicated, a silence may be kept.

11. Then the priest says

Let us pray.

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed by 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 them that trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the  
Glory  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

12. The priest lets  
the people  
depart with this  
**BLESSING**

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

In circumstances of necessity the minister may shorten the Service, commencing at the "Words of Assurance".

## **AFTER THE SERVICE**

**In your own words —**

thank God the Father for His unchanging love;  
thank the Lord Jesus for dying to save you from sin;  
thank the Holy Spirit Who gives inner strength to make you whole;  
and commit yourself afresh to Him, and continue to draw daily on His peace and power.

**This prayer may help you —**

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits You have won for me, for all the pains and insults You have borne for me:  
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Master,  
May I see You more clearly;  
love You more dearly; and  
follow You more nearly. **AMEN.**

**LET US REMEMBER:**

That others have gone through the same experience and have triumphed over it. God's plan for everyone is health and wholeness of body, mind, and spirit; but His healing power cannot gain an entry into our own hearts if we are bitter or resentful — whether against our condition, or against other people. So . . . . .

**SEND AWAY THESE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS, by saying:**

O God, You know my need: please cleanse my mind from dark thoughts, especially any ill-will I bear against another. Help me to leave my fear and anxieties at Your feet, and may I take Jesus' promised peace, and abide in His Rest. **AMEN.**

**NOW REMEMBER THAT GOD IS WITH YOU; AND THAT THOSE WHO REALLY TURN TO HIM ARE ALWAYS SATISFIED.**

**Say to Him:**

I will trust in You and not be afraid; Your presence will go with me, and give me rest, for You, God, are my refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Remember Jesus said:**

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you . . . . Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

**IN THE SMALL HOURS** we are apt to see things out of perspective, and to become very sorry for ourselves in a way we would not do in the daytime.

**SO**.... "all that is true, all that is noble, all that is just and pure, all that is lovable and gracious, whatever is excellent and admirable — fill your thoughts with these things."

(Philippians 4:8, N.E.B.)

**IF YOU CAN'T SLEEP DURING THE NIGHT....**

**RECALL** the blessings of your life....

**LOOK** back over the past and see how God has been with you in good times and bad....

**PRAY** for other people — for those at home, for your friends, (especially those in need) — for those in the Hospital, (both staff and patients)....

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep: talk to the Shepherd. (See John's Gospel, 10:27 & 28.)

**IF YOU ARE TO HAVE AN OPERATION....**

as you prepare for sleep the night before, say:

"In peace, I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:8)

**ON THE MORNING OF THE OPERATION:**

Remember that God knows what you need and that His Spirit is already at hand to help you. Fill your mind with these thoughts:

"In quietness and in trust shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30:15)

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

Jesus said: "Lo, I am with you always". (Matthew 28:20)

"The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". (Philippians 4:7)

**WHEN YOU ARE WELL AGAIN —**

Remember that you still need God. If, as a result of your illness, you have drawn closer to Him, have found a new reality in prayer, and have learnt useful lessons for life, be careful that the joys of restored health and the return to the daily round of work do not make you forget your good intentions.

"BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL AND FORGET NOT  
ALL HIS BENEFITS", (Psalm 103:2)

**PRAYER OF SERENITY.**

"O God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change — to change the things I can: and the wisdom to know the difference". (The A.A. Prayer)

"THE GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
THE LOVE of God, and  
THE FELLOWSHIP of the Holy Spirit, be with us evermore". **AMEN.**

All Bible references (unless otherwise stated) are from the Revised Standard Version.

