

EXPANDED EDITION

for Sunday or midweek online worship gatherings

**A Sacred Meal for a Dispersed Community available to the
Church of New Hampshire
Season after Pentecost- Ordinary Time 2021**

Acknowledging that we are not in the same physical space in the same way that Jesus gathered in the Upper Room with his disciples on the night before he suffered, we come together nonetheless via online technology. We do so out of the spiritual yearning for closeness expressed by our Savior who said, "I have eagerly desired to share this Passover with you before I suffer." (Luke 22:15)

Participants are invited to have a candle and ceremonial food prepared and laid out on a table. Bread could be flatbread, crackers or challah; drink could be wine, grape juice, cider, water.

This service may be led by a priest, deacon or lay worship leader.

Opening Sentences *(Participants are invited to light a candle here if they choose)*

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *(Psalm 118:24)*

**Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.**

Amen.

**Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

**God, our provider,
help us.**

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?
Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.
Amen.**

**Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.**

Or this

The Confession of Sin *(From Iona Abbey Worship Book)*

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

Silence may be kept.

Leader: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

People: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Leader: Amen.

People: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

People: Amen.

or this

(From the Book of Common Prayer)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The leader says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

A deacon or lay person using the preceding form substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."

Collect of the Day

Hymn or Song of Praise

Taize music and songs about light might be particularly appropriate. Worship music created by music directors from NH churches can be found by going to <https://www.nhepiscopal.org/worship-liturgy> or NH Episcopal YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/NHEpiscopal>, check back often as content is updated frequently.

The Word of the Lord

(from the lectionary for the day)

Scripture Readings *(can be found here: https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/daily_readings_anytime.php)*

Homily

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers (*Suggested Weekly Prayers - See Appendix below*)

Collect

Agape Meal

Reading: Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

The Leader now offers the following prayers.

Prayer for Bread

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; you have fed us with the bread of life in the Body of your Son. Feed us now with your presence among us and your presence in your Word. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Prayer for Drink

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen. May the

time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

If you are having a full meal following this service, you may bless the food with this prayer:

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Leader: Jesus said, "When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Participants now eat their food and drink their drink)

Hymn *(Optional music here while people eating and drinking)*

Closing Prayer:

(From Iona Abbey Worship Book)

All: O God of life, of all life and of each life,
we lay our lives before you;
we give our lives to you
from whom nothing in us is hidden.

You are before us, God, you are behind.
You are around us, God, you are within.

O God of life, O generous Spirit,
renew us with your life,
tonight, tomorrow and always. Amen.

or this (From the Book of Common Prayer)

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness

to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Appendix I - Prayers of the People (for Ordinary Time):

- Suggestion 1 -

God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries (*local ministries may be named*). Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

The leader adds a concluding collect.

- Suggestion 2 -

Litany

Leader: We gather today, with a desire to know your Presence among us.

People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (*Ps. 118:24*)

Leader: Surrounded by illness, your presence is with us as we mourn our dead;

People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: We know our loneliness and discomfort are held in your loving hands;
People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Leader: We cannot see the way that lies ahead;
People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Leader: Yet, we know you make a way in the Wilderness;
People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Leader: Assure us that you are doing a new thing among us through the resurrection
of your son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

*(Perhaps a final collect including the opportunity to pray for particular persons,
and express thanksgivings)*

- Suggestion 3 -

Suffrages B, Morning Prayer, Rite II, BCP 98:

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
V. Day by day we bless you;
R. We praise your name for ever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collect