



The  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH** in  
**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

# Communion under Special Circumstances from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer

## Adapted for use in the Easter Season 2021 for the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

*This form is intended for use with those who for reasonable cause cannot be present at a public celebration of the Eucharist. It is desirable (those in the same household or Covid “pod”) to be present, when possible, to communicate together. Those who live alone may also use this as an individual act of worship and sacramental nurture.*

*This form may be used immediately before or following online worship or as a separate devotion.*

*The elements used in this service have been pre-consecrated at a service of Holy Communion presided over by a priest or the bishop and made available for those communicating at home. The Sacrament is to be contained in a simple and dignified package (small manila coin envelope, eg.) and delivered with copies of the Order of Service. The Sacrament is to be stored in a safe and honorable place until the time of the home service and handled with due reverence.*

*It is preferable that the consecrated elements be brought on a weekly basis throughout the cessation of in person worship to the home of the recipient by an ordained or lay minister for a safe, contact-free delivery. The person delivering the Sacrament should wear a mask and use hand sanitizer before handling the envelope with the Sacrament. They should hand the envelope or container to the individual at the door without making physical contact. If desired, gloves may be worn for added protection. Some churches may make the Sacrament available for pick up at a specific time at the parish.*

## **The Order of Service**

*The Officiant (one of the persons in the home group or the individual on his/her own) begins with one of the following sentences of scripture:*

*Easter Season, including Ascension Day and the Day of Pentecost*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

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

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians 15:57*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

*Or, one of the following:*

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*

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." *John 6:35*

Jesus said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him." *John 6:51, 55-56*

Jesus said, "Abide in me, as I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love." *John 15:4-5a, 8-9*

*After the Reading, the Officiant invites the assembled people to share their personal reflections, or they share a moment of silence.*

*Suitable prayers are offered for the season:*

**Easter Day (April 4<sup>th</sup>)**

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*or this*

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*or this*

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Monday in Easter Week (April 5<sup>th</sup>)**

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with awe the Paschal feast may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Tuesday in Easter Week (April 6<sup>th</sup>)**

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Wednesday in Easter Week (April 7<sup>th</sup>)**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Thursday in Easter Week (April 8<sup>th</sup>)**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Friday in Easter Week (April 9<sup>th</sup>)**

Almighty Father, who gave your only Son to die for our sins and to rise for our justification: Give us grace so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Saturday in Easter Week (April 10<sup>th</sup>)**

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### **Second Sunday of Easter (April 11<sup>th</sup>)**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Third Sunday of Easter (April 18<sup>th</sup>)**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter (April 25<sup>th</sup>)**

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 9<sup>th</sup>)**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Ascension Day (May 13<sup>th</sup>)**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

*or this*

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day (May 16<sup>th</sup>)**

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

### **The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday (May 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*or this*

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*The following collect is then prayed:*

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we/I may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*A Confession of Sin is customarily omitted during the Easter season.*

*The Peace may then be exchanged.*

*The Lord's Prayer is said, the Officiant first saying,*

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.	Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.	Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.	For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Sacrament is shared with the following or other words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

*The following post-communion prayer is said:*

*The service concludes with:*

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*