

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Celebrant: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And with your Spirit

Celebrant: Let us lift our hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

Congregation: It is right indeed to worship Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Most Holy Trinity, one in Essence and undivided.

Celebrant: It is right to praise you, who the firmament by your power and might created. You caused your creatures to breathe with a spirit from on high. You assigned earth with its myriad forms to us humans for our dwelling. O God, who is One, be Thou our defender; shield us, grant us Satan’s power to vanquish and love’s desire until death to cherish. Lighten for us our load of sin in the final hour. You are the light who shines in the darkness, Holy Spirit, spirit of comfort and paraclete. We give thanks to you for this Holy Communion, which we offer you from our hearts and minds. Therefore, with thousands of archangels and tens of thousands of angels, the cherubim and seraphim and all the company of heaven we sing, cry and shout the triumphal and celestial hymn saying:

Congregation: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Celebrant: With all our might, O Lord, we also cry aloud and say: “Holy are you God, and all holy and magnificent is your glory; who so loved your world, as to give your only begotten Son that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.” In the night in which he was betrayed for the

life of the world, he took bread in his holy, pure and blameless hands, and when he gave thanks and sanctified and broke it, he gave it to his disciples and apostles saying: “Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you for the remission of sins.”

Congregation: Amen.

Celebrant: In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins.”

Congregation: Amen.

Celebrant: Remembering, therefore, this commandment of yours and all those things that have come to pass for our sake: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection on the third day, the ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand, and the second coming, O Lord, we give you thanks.

Congregation: We sing to you; we bless you! We give our thanks to you, O Lord, and pray to you, our God.

Celebrant: We ask you, we pray and we implore you: send down your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon us and these gifts to be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation: Amen.

Celebrant: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ was broken for us. We break this bread for those who love God, for those who follow the path of Islam, Judaism, Buddhism or any other faith traditions, so that one day we may be as one.

Congregation: Amen.

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

Celebrant: We break this bread for our green earth, destroyed forests, fields and flowers, contaminated waters and air, that one day God’s creation will be restored.

Congregation: Amen.

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

Celebrant: We break this bread for those who have no bread, the starving, the homeless and the refugees, that one day this planet may be a home for everyone.

Congregation: Amen.

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

Celebrant: We break this bread for our broken hearts, the wounded child in all of us, for our broken relationships, that one day we may glimpse the wholeness that is of Christ.

Congregation: Amen.

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

Celebrant: The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for us. We raise this cup for the depressed, for the hopeless, and those who are tormented by fear and guilt, that one day they find comfort in Christ.

Congregation: Amen.

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

Celebrant: We raise this cup for those who are forgotten, the crying and those for whom no one prays, so that one day they may find community in Christ.

Congregation: Amen.

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

Celebrant: We raise this cup for the persecuted, prisoners of conscience and faith, and for all marginalized minorities, so that one day the persecuted may find comfort and God will melt the hearts of stone.

Congregation: Amen.

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

Celebrant: We raise this cup for those who suffer from war and bloodshed, that one day God’s reign of peace and justice will come on earth.

Congregation: Amen.

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

Celebrant: As we celebrate this Holy Communion we remember those who have gone to their peace in faith.

Congregation: We thank you for their lives and example.

BEFORE THE EUCHARIST

Celebrant: We thank you, O Lord, for counting us worthy to call upon you, the God of heaven and earth, as Father, and say:

Congregation: 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.

Celebrant: For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

Congregation: Amen.

Celebrant: With reverence to God, with faith and with love of neighbor, draw near and receive this bread and wine. As disciples of Christ, remember that the body of our Lord was broken for you, and the blood of our Lord was shed for you on Calvary. Come, come, whoever you are, wonderer, worshipper, the lover of leaving. It doesn't matter. Come, even if you have broken your vow a thousand times. Come, yet again, come, come to the Lord.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

Worshippers are invited to go forward to receive communion by intinction. Grape juice is served at the station on the left on both levels; wine is served at all other stations. Gluten-free bread is available at all stations. Servers will come to those who need to remain seated.

PRAYER AFTER THE EUCHARIST

Celebrant: O thou lover of humankind, we thank you for counting us worthy to participate in your Holy Communion. Having been cleansed in you, we now go forth. Bless and protect us, for you alone are One God, Father and Holy Spirit, and we worship you.

Congregation: Amen!

Celebrant: Lord, bless all who you have created in your image and likeness, bless your faithful worshipers who love your beauty. Remember those who have their trust in you. Grant your peace to the entire world and its inhabitants: the orphans and widows, the poor and sick, the hungry and thirsty, prisoners and refugees, and the sidelined shelter-less. All good and perfect gifts come from you, Father of the Light. We praise and worship you, One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen!

EUCHARISTIC LITURGY
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This liturgy was written by Malkhaz Songulashvili, Metropolitan Bishop of the Evangelical Baptist Union of the Republic of Georgia. It was inspired by John Chrysostom, Shota Rustaveli, Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi and Donald Rives.

Celebrant: God of compassion and mercy, God of beauty and love, show yourself to the faithful who call upon your name. Accept the prayers and supplications from all your children from generation to generation. As incense would rise before you and fill this room with a sweet smell, so fill our hearts, minds and souls with the fragrance of the knowledge of your son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

CONFESSION

Celebrant: Let us offer our prayers of confession:

Congregation: Almighty God, we confess before you all the sins we have committed through thought, word and deed. We confess that we have failed to love you the way you love us. We have failed to love both neighbors and enemies the way your children should love. Forgive us the sins that everyone sees. Forgive us the sins that no one sees. Forgive us sins that you alone can see. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Almighty God, who receives all who truly repent, pardon and deliver us from all our sins and guilt. By the authority God grants the church I declare: Our sins are forgiven and our guilt is wiped away. We are free to live and love in Jesus Christ.

Congregation: Glory be to God.