

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Entering the Season of Easter

By Rev. Michelle Torigian

L: On this day, we celebrate the risen Christ

P: On this day, we celebrate resurrection in our lives.

L: On this day, we embrace the grace that reaches from the tomb—miraculously encircling the world.

P: On this day, we embrace faith by committing to love in action.

L: On this day, we shout Alleluia!

P: On this day we shout, Christ is risen! Alleluia!

It is through our neighbors and creation that we see the rising of Christ, O God. Creator of Our Earth: We celebrate the shifting of seasons from one to the next. As the earth sheds its snow, it begins to drink in the warm rains, and creation comes alive once again. And so, in this spirit of brightness and life, we celebrate.

We celebrate the risen Christ in our midst. We celebrate the table in which we can join together with friends and strangers, loved ones and enemies. Through this meal, which has stood the test of time, we covenant to love you, God.

We covenant to love as Jesus Christ loved us- loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Let us pray,

Through a simple meal of grain and grape, we, Your children, unite. As we enter this season of Easter, we ask that the warm winds of the Spirit encircle this table and accompany us on our journey. May this Spirit help us to recognize Christ-present in our midst. May the Spirit open our souls for us to see humanity, and creation through the eyes of Jesus. It was Jesus who introduced this meal to His followers. Even though Jesus knew He would be betrayed and deserted by those at this supper, He joined them at the table, sharing time and space with those with whom He grew closest. May we welcome the

opportunity to sit with our neighbors and our betrayers. The immigrant and the refugee. After all, Jesus was both. Amen and **Amen.**

As the night lengthened, Jesus took a simple portion of bread. He blessed it and broke it and shared it with the disciples. He urged them: Remember Me.

Afterwards, Jesus took the cup. During His blessing, Jesus reminded them how He would go to the ends of the earth in His love for them.

Today, we celebrate this earth-shaking love of Jesus – a love that sent Him to the cross and a Love that lives eternally with us, encouraging us to live a resurrected life.

The Bread of Life and the Cup of the Covenant: Gifts to unite the Body of Christ.

Come forward as you feel led.

After all have returned to their seats:

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Through this space and time together today, we celebrate the covenant that ties us with God, Jesus the Christ, our neighbors, and creation. Thank you, Divine Crafter of the Table, for fashioning us a holy meal that unites us with the Body of Christ. Send us into the world resurrected, refreshed, and ready to share Christ's unconditional love. Amen.

Blessed Easter to all.

