

Eucharistic Prayer for the Streets

Wherever the service will be held, gather the community into a circle. The presider may be part of the circle or stand by an altar, if present.

The Lord is with us.

Let us worship God's name.

A song may be included here, if deemed appropriate. It should be simple and easy to sing. Examples may be "Kum By Ya/Come By Here" or "Holy, Holy" or "Jesus, remember me."

God, you created us good and holy. You set your love upon us, even when we fail and forget you.

Jesus, you came to earth to live and die among us, homeless and despised and persecuted. Your resurrection gives us hope of new life.

Holy Spirit, you move among us, you comfort and guide us, and you give us hope.

If so moved, the presider may include, extemporaneously, a more extended narrative of the work of Christ.

At the following words concerning the bread and cup, the presider should hold up the elements and extend them around to the people.

We come here to remember the night before Jesus died. On that night, he sat down to dinner with his friends in a borrowed room. He took bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat: This is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After they were done eating, he took the cup and said; "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

When we come together to take this bread and this cup, we do it to remember Jesus, who died, who rose, and who is coming again.

We also come to remember ourselves, to see ourselves in this broken bread and this cup poured out, each one of us saints of God.

I invite you, each of you around the circle to say your name, as we remember...

The presider will begin by saying his/her name and invite the person beside him/her to follow. Give time for everyone around the circle to say their name. If there is need, repeat the invitation as people come and go. The presider may invite people to hold hands if appropriate for the setting.

The presider continues...

Come, Holy Spirit, come upon each of us, your children (or *your saints*) who suffer and who hope for resurrection in Jesus.

We also come to remember all those we love and care about.

I invite you to say the names of people who need prayer today...

Encourage people to say names and a short explanation, if they wish. Leave enough time for people to say what they need to say. This is a time of extemporaneous prayer.

Come, Holy Spirit, come up all those we love and care about. Surround them with your love. Hold them in your arms.

The presider turns to the elements...

And come Holy Spirit, come upon this bread and this wine, that it may be for us the body and blood of Jesus. As we take part in this bread and this cup, we remember Jesus, we remember ourselves, and we remember those we care about. This we pray in the name of the holy and blessed Trinity, one God. AMEN.

If deemed appropriate, the Lord's Prayer may be said in unison, beginning with the words "As our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray..."

The presider should raise the bread and break it.

Broken we come to you, O God, as we remember Jesus broken for us. We ask for healing.

The presider continues...

These are the gifts of God for each of you, the people of God. Let us remember who we are as saints of God.

The presider may invite lay participants to help raise the elements. The bread and wine should either be passed from person to person or the presider should invite lay participation in the distribution of the elements. The body of Christ is distributing the body of Christ. Encourage people to say "The Body of Christ" and "The blood of Christ" while distributing the elements.

After the elements are distributed, people may join hands.

Jesus, we have come broken, remembering your body broken. Jesus, we have come suffering, remembering your suffering. Jesus, we have come in hope, remembering your hope. Let us share in your resurrection joy. Restore our world, restore our lives, give us hope.

Following this, the presider should give a blessing, raising his/her hands and inviting the congregation to join.

Go now as the body of Jesus, go now as saints of God, go now in the hope of the Holy Spirit. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. Amen.

Notes:

This Eucharistic Prayer borrows the inclusion of prayers of the people into the celebration of Eucharist from Prayer D in the BCP. It is designed for use on the street in outdoor worship. It could be used as a general service or it could be used for a special celebration. Central to this prayer is a theology of re-membering. I want the participants to see and feel themselves a part of the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. In the Eucharist, we, the body of Christ, are looking and tasting and seeing the body of Christ broken. We come as broken people, bearing our own burdens of pain, burdens that are often deep and immediate. Jesus is one of us. His broken body represents our broken body and the broken bodies of those we know and love and have lost. But it is not only re-membering of suffering and brokenness. We also name ourselves part of resurrection joy. The gathered community, named and identifying with Jesus, creates a vision of hope.

In this, the Eucharist can and should be a place of empowerment, of glimpsing the kingdom of God. The use of people's names is a powerful act. I am asking people to say "Presente!" "I am part of the kingdom of God.". This prayer gives space for people to speak their names into the space, whatever name they choose to use.