



House(hold) Church



Gathering

Prepare a space for the meal of Holy Communion. Turn your living room into a sanctuary or your dining table into a Communion table. Use a special table cloth, set out a fancy plate with enough bread for all who are gathered, light a candle or two, and you have an altar.

Decide together who is going to do the different worship tasks. You'll need someone to pray, someone to read scripture or share a Bible story, and someone to lead the Communion liturgy.

Take a few minutes to go around the room or table and have everyone share their highs and lows. Whoever is praying will need to take down highs and lows so they can pray about them.

Prayer of the Day

You can use the template below or make up your own prayer. Prayer is just talking to God, so you don't have to be fancy, just honest!

Dear God,

Thank you for the people gathered here today. We come together with a lot on our hearts and minds. We pray for the lows in our lives (list the lows that your household shared). Help us to see where you are at work, even when things seem bad. We pray for the highs in our lives (list the highs your household shared). Use these good things to strengthen us and remind us of your love and grace. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.



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Word

Have a member of your household read a story from Scripture. You can choose a favorite, or you can use the Gospel reading from the past Sunday. Use the discussion questions on the Immanuel website to guide your conversation. You could also act out the story or do the Head to Heart Yoga Bible Story video together! You could also watch a recent sermon video or a devotional of your choice.



Holy Communion

Holy Communion is a special meal we celebrate when we worship. The bread and wine are mysteriously the real presence of Jesus Christ. Because mysteries are, well, mysterious, we trust that Jesus is really with us in this meal.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Household: And also with you.

When our congregation gathered for Holy Communion with all the saints from every time and place, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and the love shown us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The holy meal of the Lord's supper was shared.

Even though we gather separately, for now, we share this bread of life, a gift that unites and strengthens the Christian community.



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Confession & Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins, all that we have done to hurt each other and ourselves, in the presence of God and of one another. (Pause for a moment of reflection. Non readers can draw a picture of something they want to say sorry for.)

Most merciful God, We confess that we have messed up. With our words and our hands, we have not been kind to others or to our own selves. We are hopeless without your love. We are afraid of running out of things, so we take more than we need. We are afraid of what could happen, so we forget that you are with us all the time to give us peace. We spend the night with worry instead of prayer. Forgive us again and fill us up with your abundant mercy.

God is rich in mercy and love. No matter how much you mess up every day, God's love never runs out. Just as God's love is for you, so is the meal set before us. You are forgiven and ready to feast at the table, in the name of the one who died to set you free from the power of your sin, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.



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Lord's Prayer

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.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Sharing of Communion

Share the bread with each person, saying,
"The body of Christ, given for you."

If you are gathered with someone who does not receive communion, trace the sign of the cross on their forehead and tell them, "You are a beloved child of God, now and forever."

Prayer and Blessing

Thank you God for all you have given us, our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Strengthen us with this holy meal so we can continue the work of feeding the world with
your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.