

The “Our Father” Great Thanksgiving for Joint Celebration with Four Clergy

prepared by Rev. Dan Hooper, Hollywood Lutheran Church ■ April 2006



This Eucharistic form was prepared for an ecumenical service in which participating clergy and many congregants are not familiar or quickly comfortable with formal or lengthy liturgical rites. Based on the Lord’s Prayer (tradition wording here, but easily replaced with contemporary wording), it is an attempt to bridge the discomfort, teach the faithful, and engage the participating clergy in a formal prayer of consecration.

The Ministers come together at the Altar

The HOST 1 or senior pastor begins the prayer. The congregation reads the indented lines:

HOST 1 **The Lord be with you.**

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer praise and thanksgiving.

PASTOR 2 **We have come, Mighty God, as Christ's people, gathered as one on the night in which he was betrayed, and in remembrance of the new covenant in his blood, his new commandment of love, and his plea for us to watch with him in the hour of temptation and trial. And so we pray:**

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,

PASTOR 3 Creator of all, you have given life to all things, and new life in Christ to all who have heard his reconciling and loving word.

C: Hallowed be thy name,

PASTOR 4 We praise you for your covenant of love, from the beginning of time and throughout all generations with your people Israel; for your voice expressed by the prophets, and especially for giving us your Son, Jesus Christ, born among us as a Savior of your people;

C: Thy kingdom come,

HOST 1 In a world of turmoil, suffering and great need, let your power be among us in a rule which is stronger than all the world's hopelessness and fear;

C: Thy will be done,

PASTOR 3 Let the power of your Word and precious promises come to all through this holy meal, that your people may be a witness to justice, mercy and peace in our community here, and everywhere;

C: On earth as it is in heaven.

PASTOR 2 So let our love for others be a mirror of your love for all, that they may see your love perfected; that no one is excluded from the promise of your salvation, or from the realm which Jesus has established to heal, to renew and to nourish the earth;

C: Give us this day our daily bread;

PASTOR 4 We lift this bread and cup in remembrance that, on this night when he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my Body, given for you. Do this in memory of me."

As the Bread is lifted up for all to see, other clergy present may make a sign or gesture of reverence toward the Bread.

HOST 1 And after supper he raised the Cup and gave thanks to you, and he gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is a new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in memory of me."

As the principal Cup is lifted up for all to see, other clergy present may make a sign or gesture of reverence toward the Cup.

PASTOR 3 And so we pray that you nourish us and all who receive these holy gifts, that we may be Christ's body in the world, a presence for his healing, his compassionate and his reconciling work today;

C: And forgive us our debts,

PASTOR 2 For as, upon the Cross, he opened his arms to all, and gave his very life, we pray that our sins may be forgiven for his sake;

C: As we forgive our debtors;

PASTOR 4 so that in obedience to his command we make reconciliation a visible sign of his love at work among us — ending the divisions within families, in neighborhoods and communities; and tearing down the dividing wall of hostility between denominations and religious faiths, and between ethnic groups, peoples and nations;

C: And lead us not into temptation,

PASTOR 3 so that you protect us from anything that could separate us from your love in Christ Jesus, and—knowing that he prayed to turn aside from the cup of suffering and sacrifice — we pray to remain faithful, and committed to be one people united in our Lord's new commandment to love one another;

C: But deliver us from evil.

HOST 1 Spare us, gracious God, from the works of prejudice and hatred, bigotry, violence and fear, so that we and all people may live in the peace of your gentle rule over your creation; for all glory and honor belong to you.

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

The Lord's Prayer, which typically follows the Eucharistic prayer, is omitted. The service continues with an Invitation to the Supper or other communion instructions.

