

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE THREE

A Celebration of Life in Recovery

The Word of God

The people gather in silence and prayer. Appropriate music may be provided.

The people standing, the celebrant says:

“Addiction is the most powerful psychic enemy of humanity’s desire for God.” *Gerald C. May, M.D.*

People Without help it is too much for us. But there is One who has all power – that One is God. May we find God now! Half measures avail us nothing. We stand at the turning point. We ask God’s protection and care with complete abandon. Here are the steps we take, which are suggested as a program of recovery:

Step 1 We admit we are powerless over _____
(name your addiction/s) that our lives have become unmanageable.

Silence is kept for reflection, then the people continue:

Step 2 We come to believe that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity.

Celebrant **Blessed be our God.**
People **The Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**
Celebrant **Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ.**
People **The Incarnate One, our Savior and Redeemer.**
Celebrant **Blessed be the Holy Spirit.**
People **The Comforter, the giver of life.**
Celebrant **Blessed be the will of our God for us.**
People **Now and forever. Amen. (Alleluia!)**

A song of praise may be sung.

Step 3 We make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God.

Celebrant and People:

God, we offer ourselves to you, to build with us and to do with us, as you will. Relieve us of the bondage of self that we may better do your will. Take away our difficulties that victory over them may bear witness to your power, your love, and your way of life to those we would help. May we do your will always. This we pray in the Name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

The Decalogue

Reader **Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of
bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **You shall not make for yourself any idol.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your
God.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **Honor your father and your mother.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **You shall not commit murder.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **You shall not commit adultery.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **You shall not steal.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **You shall not be a false witness.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Reader **You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

The people sit. One or two readings, as appointed, are read, the reader first saying:

A reading from _____.

After each reading, the reader says:

The Word of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept after each reading.

A Psalm appointed may be said or sung between the readings or before the Gospel.

Music may be used before the Gospel.

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying:

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Gospel, the Priest or Deacon says:

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Appropriate responses to the Gospel may follow.

Prayers of the People

In the silence after each bidding, the people offer their own prayers either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our bishop(s) _____; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer**

I ask your prayers for peace; for God's will among nations; and for the well being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer**

I ask your prayers for those whose addictions have cost them both health and freedom. Pray that they may find health and freedom in recovery.

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer**

I ask your prayers for all who suffer from the addiction(s) of another. Pray that they might find serenity and peace.

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer**

I ask your prayers for those who seek to care for and minister to the victims of addiction; for professionals and support groups; for parishes and clergy; for organizations and institutions. Pray that they might be patient, persistent, and wise.

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer**

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer**

I ask your prayers for all who seek God or a deeper knowledge of God, and especially for those in recovery from addiction. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer.**

**I ask your prayers for the departed (especially _____.)
Pray for those who have died.**

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer.**

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence **Lord of Life** **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant adds a concluding collect. (See page 19)

Step 4 We make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Step 5 We admit to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Celebrant **We have not loved God with our whole heart.**

People **Lord have mercy (or Kyrie eleison).**

Celebrant **We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

People **Christ have mercy (or Christi eleison).**

Celebrant **By what we have done and what we have left undone.**

People **Lord have mercy (or Kyrie eleison).**

Step 6 **We are entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**

Step 7 **We humbly ask God to remove our shortcomings.**

Celebrant and people:

My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and to my neighbors. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Absolution

Celebrant **Almighty, God, have mercy on you (us), forgive you (us) all your (our) sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you (us) in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you (us) in eternal life. Amen.**

Step 8 **We make a list of all persons we have harmed, and become willing to make amends to them all.**

Celebrant **Remembering the promises within the ninth step of recovery, we give thanks that God is doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.**

Step 9 **We make direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**

The laying on of hands with anointing for healing may be used here, with each remaining to lay hands on those following.

The Peace

The celebrant says to the people:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All greet each other in the name of the Lord.

Return to seats.

The Holy Communion

During the offertory and presentation, music may be provided.

Step 10 **We continue to take personal inventory and when we are wrong, promptly admit it.**

Celebrant **If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift. Matt. 5:23-24**

Step 11 **We seek through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Any form of the Great Thanksgiving in the BCP may be used, or this one.

The people stand and the Celebrant sings or says:

Celebrant **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.**

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant **Lift up your hearts.**

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

It is right and good and a joyful thing to give you thanks, Holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love. You have redeemed us in Christ Jesus and knit us into his body to do your will. Through your spirit, you replenish us and call us to a complete life.

Those of us surviving addiction now celebrate your recalling us to life through a special revelation to Lois and Bill Wilson, to Ann and Bob Smith. Thank you for the guidance of your priests: Sam Shoemaker and Ed Dowling, and of Sister Ignatia, Drs. William Silkworth, Harry Tiebout, and Carl Jung. Thank you for the Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church and for the Addictions Recovery Ministry of the Diocese of Louisiana, and for all signs of your special care for us in Christ Jesus.

Here the people may offer individual thanksgivings.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with all the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Celebrant and people:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.**

The Celebrant continues:

We give praise and thanks to you our God for sending your Son Jesus Christ, through the willingness of your servant Mary, to recall the world to your saving purpose.

And so, we bring to you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave it to his friends, saying, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup, again gave thanks to you, 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

People of God, proclaim the mystery of new life:

Celebrant and People:

Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ has risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.

The Celebrant Continues:

Grant that we who share in these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s own body in the world.

Continue in us your gifts of honesty, open mindedness, and willingness, that we may further our recovery and pass to others your revelation of the path of recovery. Bring us happy, joyous and free, with all your daughters and sons from every tribe and language and people and nation to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty and merciful God, now and forever.

Amen.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say (sing):

People and Celebrant join hands where feasible:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant **We break this Bread to share in the Body of Christ.**

People **We who are many are one Body, for we all share the one Bread.**

Celebrant **The gifts of God for the people of God.**

People **Lamb of God, have mercy on us and grant us peace and serenity.**

The wine used is “real” wine.

Anyone whose addiction includes alcohol, must use their own discretion.

Communion may be received in the Bread only.

The Bread and Cup are given with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

During Communion, music may be used, and after Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray together:

People

Merciful and loving God, power beyond all power, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the Body and Blood of Christ and for restoring us to sanity and new life through the Twelve Steps of Recovery. Now send us forth, forgiven, healed, and renewed, to proclaim your love to the world and to continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Celebrant may bless the people.

Step 12 Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Celebrant or Deacon dismisses the people:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. (Alleluia, Alleluia!)**

Closing music may be used.