**Invitation:**

*Congregation reads parts in bold together*

As we respond to the Word of the Lord today, we have an opportunity to act it out in this rich, life-giving drama. Because we’re going to celebrate communion together. And it’s here, at the communion table, that we remember how Jesus really has reconciled us to God, and to each other through his death on the cross. And here, we discover it’s true all over again: that the Kingdom of Peace *is* coming.

Follower of Jesus, hear this invitation to God’s table today:

“You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with your neighbours, who intend to lead a new life following the resurrected Jesus and walking in his holy ways, draw near now by faith. Humbly make your honest confession to God, and take this holy sacrament for your comfort.”

**Prayer of Confession:**

As we prepare to come to the table today, let’s humbly make our honest confession to God:

Jesus, we admit it, that if we had been on that road that day, when you rode victoriously into Jerusalem so long ago the way of peace would have been hidden from our eyes, too.

Because like those cheering throngs, we, too

Cling to our own agendas

Hold grudges, Harbor unforgiveness

Refuse reconciliation and reject your call

To be radical pace-makers in the world around us.

**Lord, Have mercy on us, and forgive.**

Like them, our faith is often more show than substance

Our praise is often mixed up with our own selfish pride

And our hearts are in need of cleansing.

**Hosanna! Save us, Son of David.**

And in this quiet moment of personal confession

We invite your triumphal entry into our hearts

And lives, today.

**Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Let’s pray:

It really is good and right to glorify you,

O God, who made us and redeems us,

Because you alone are God, living and true,

dwelling in inaccessible light

from before time began, and Now, and forever more.

You’re fountain of all life and the source of all goodness,

Gracious and Compassionate,

Slow to anger, Abounding in Steadfast love.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you, God.

They serve you night and day,

and, as they behold the glory of your presence,

they offer you unceasing praise.

God, we join them now,

and giving voice to every creature under heaven,

we glorify your name, and say:

**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.**

And we celebrate today, because we know

Your Son, Jesus Christ, fulfilled the prophets’ words

and entered the city of Jerusalem,

where he was lifted high upon the cross,

so that the whole world might be drawn to him.

By his suffering and death

he defeated the power of death,

becoming the source of eternal life.

The tree of defeat became the tree of victory;

where life was lost, life has been restored.

And with overflowing hearts today we proclaim our faith in him:

**Christ died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again!**

**Prayer of Blessing:**

God, please send your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon these gifts:

so that in the sharing of this bread that we break

and in the receiving of this cup that we bless

we may know the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and we may discover here, at this table,

the life with him that brings us peace.

**Words of Distribution:**

Jesus is our host at this table, but He’s also the feast itself.

Because on the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.

And in the same way, after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: drink this, all of your; for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink of it in remembrance of me.

People of God: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, broken and shed for you. Come, take, and eat, and feed on Christ in your heart with thanksgiving. May it remind you today that Christ lives for you, that he reigns for you, that he loves you.

Amen.