

THE LITURGY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:

I. The Liturgy of the Reformed Church of Hungary

1. The Invocation:

"May our deliverance come from God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen."

2. The Teaching Concerning Holy Baptism:

(This exhortation must include the words of institution for the Holy Baptism: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit") pm ...

3. The Vows of parents and godparents :

The Minister:

"Before I would administer the Holy Baptism, I address two questions to you, to which you shall reply in audible words:

- (i) Do you wish that by means of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this infant be enrolled into the Covenant of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and also be admitted into the holy Christian Church?

Parents and godparents shall say: We do.

- (ii) Do you pledge and vow, that from now on you shall raise up this child in the fear and admonition of the Lord and also have him (her) educated, so that in due course of time, in the presence of the congregation he (she) voluntarily will make a profession of faith in the one eternal God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

Parents and godparents shall say: We do.

4. The Apostle's Creed.

5. Prayer by the Minister. (Any of the liturgical prayers found in the Agenda, of which a few samples are found under.)

6. The Act of Baptism. (The Minister should ask the name of the child first and then he shall say:)

N. N. I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

7. The Benediction:

"May the God of mercy bless this infant, may He bring him (her) up and guide him (her) over all obstacles and temptations, may He bring about, that this child be a joy to his (her) parents, a useful member of the Church as well as of the civil community, and finally, that he (she) be a partaker of the everlasting glory. Amen."

(51)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give Thee thanks for Thy promises concerning our children. We pray for this Thy child whom Thou hast graciously elected to be a child of Thy Covenant people. Maintain Thy loving kindness upon him (her), in his (her) entire life, guide him (h~r) in Thy way that he (she) may grow up as a witness of Thy precious name. Grant him (her) the true faith and godliness, enable him (her) to fight the good fight here on earth, always increasing in faith, hope and love that he (she) may persevere as a faithful child of Thy Covenant until his (her) appointed time comes to appear before Thy judgement seat. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

(52)

God of our Fathers, Who hast formed us all in Thy image and Who redeemest us from the evil of our own sinful and depraved condition: remember in Thy loving kindness this infant whom Thou hast created in Thy eternal counsel and hast formed in the womb of his (her) mother and to whom Thou hast given the breath of life. We thank Thee that Thou hast graciously saved his (her) mother through the perils of childbirth, we praise and magnify Thy name for this Thy child Thou hast committed to the care of these parents and us Thy Covenant people. We pray for Thy blessing upon this infant, keep him (her) in Thy mercy and grant him (her) the gift of Thy grace through the bath of rebirth and by the renewing power of Thy Holy Spirit, in Christ name we pray. Amen.

(Baptismal Prayer from the "Agenda" of B3.1int Revesz, Debrecen, 1853.)

(53)

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, these Thy Covenant people stand before Thee with thanksgiving in their hearts for Thy loving kindness by which Thou hast enriched their lives with a newborn child. Thou hast guarded his (her) mother while she expected her infant, and Thou hast saved her while she gave birth to this child, for which we praise Thy holy name. We received this child from Thy fatherly love as a precious gift and a sacred trust, therefore, we beseech Thee Lord, be the Father of this child -redeeming and sanctifying him (her), that he (she) may praise Thee in his (her) life, in his (her) death and in life everlasting. Amen. (From the "Agenda" of Bishop L. Ra"asz, 1929.)

(54)

Accept, O Lord, this child whom we now dedicate unto Thee according to the ordinance of Thy holy Son. Give grace to parents, God-parents, and to an godly people everywhere, so to train and assist him (her) that he (she) may grow up in Thy knowledge and love. Grant him (her) Thy blessing, and so attend him (her) with Thy presence, that he (she) may increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with Thee and men, according to the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Guide him (her) through this earthly life so, that at the end the crown of life may adorn his (her) head in Thy heavenly kingdom. In Christ's name we ask. Amen. (From the Liturgy of Holy Baptism, compiled by Dr. Vincze.)

II. The Liturgy of Baptism in use of the Hungarian Reformed Church in America:

Compiled by the Rev. Dr. Charles Vincze, Perth Amboy, N. J.

1. "Our help is in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

2. Beloved in Christ: It is your desire to have this child baptized. Holy Baptism, like Holy Communion, is a Sacrament instituted by God the Son in the days of His flesh; more specifically when giving the great kingdom building commission to His disciples: Go ye, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Each administration of Holy Baptism is a worshipful act of obedience to this divine commandment. The holy presence of the Lord is just as much to be realized in front of the baptismal fountain as in front of the Lord's Table when set for Holy Communion.

According to the consensus of the great majority of Christendom, ourselves included, the children of the faithful are also entitled to this Sacrament. They are included in the covenant of grace. They are joint heirs with us to the promises of salvation through the blood of Jesus, which the water of this Sacrament symbolizes. In fact, the child-loving Savior served this warning on prideful and sophisticated adults:

"Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

The claiming and the acceptance of this Sacrament for infants, however, involves the parents and God-parents in great responsibilities and sacred obligations. You owe it to God the Holy Trinity to honor His ordinance, by not reducing it to a mere custom, an empty ceremony. You owe it to the Church, the stewardess of God's mysteries, to justify the trust, which the administration of this Sacrament to your child implies.

You owe it to your child to bring him (her) up in the knowledge and love of the Triune God, in whose name he (she) will be baptized. You owe it to yourselves to prove worthy, before God and men, of the divine trust of Christian parenthood and spiritual guardianship, by living up to all the sacred commitments you volunteer to make, both for yourselves and for your child. Having been informed of your duties and obligations, is it still your desire to have this child baptized?

Parents and godparents shall say: I do.

Then, first, give testimony of your own faith by saying after me the Apostle's Creed. (Only in case the parties were not present at that part of the service.)

3. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe a holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

4. The vows of parents and godparents:

"Do you acknowledge, value and appreciate this child as a gift of God, a sacred trust in the Lord, for whose physical and spiritual welfare and upbringing you 'are responsible before God and men?"

Parents and godparents shall say: I do.

"Do you promise before God and this congregation to do your best to bring up this child in the knowledge and love of God; and will you see to it that at the proper age he (she) will make an open confession of faith, and thereby come to a full, personal, communicant fellowship with the Church of Christ?"

Parents and godparents shall say: I do.

5. Let the prayer of Christ's congregation be added to your good intention. Let us pray!

"Accept, o Lord, this child whom we now dedicate unto Thee according to the ordinance of Thy Holy Son. Give grace to parents, God-parents, and to all godly people every-where, so to train and assist him (her) that he (she) may grow up in Thy knowledge and love. Grant him (her) Thy blessing, and so attend him (her) with Thy presence, that he (she) may increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with Thee and men, according to the example of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Guide him (her) through this earthly life so, that at the end the crown of life may adorn his (her) head in Thy heavenly kingdom. In Christ's name we ask. Amen."

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Minister shall say: "What is the name of the child?"

6. N. N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
7. " And now, the Lord bless you and keep you, together with those into whose care He placed you. Amen." (The singing of an appropriate hymn by the congregation may follow, and that concludes the baptismal service. - The address to parents and God-parents may vary , but must include the Words of Institution.)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

III. The Liturgy of the Reformed Church of Hungary

1. The Invocation:

"Grace be unto you and peace from God, the Father and from our Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave Him-self for our sins, that He may rescue us from the present evil age, in accordance with the will of our Father, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

2. The Words of Institution:

My beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, hear and observe, how our Lord instituted the sacramental supper. The Apostle Paul relates it to us in this manner in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapter eleventh, verses 23 and following:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me, For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

While reading the words of institution, the Minister takes the bread and breaks it, takes the cup and with both hands raises it face-high.

3. The Communion Meditation.

4. PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Let us make a confession of our sins, praying in this manner:
The Minister has to read one of the approved liturgical prayers of confession found in the official Agenda of the Church. Most of our prayers of confession are translations of the same. -We are told that recently the reading of Psalm 51 often serves as the prayer of confession in the liturgy for Holy Communion.
See prayers: 41,42,43,44,45,46.

5. Confession of Faith:

We have made confession of our sins, come, let us confess our faith by reciting the creed of the holy Christian Church in unison:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, He descended into hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion ,of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Minister shall say:

Well it may be, my brethren, that I do not doubt (the sincerity of) your confession of faith and sin, nonetheless, faithful to the general practice of our mother church, I address a few questions unto you, to which you shall all answer according to your beliefs and convictions, conscientiously and with audible words.

First, I ask you this: do you believe, that the first man was created by God in righteousness, in holiness and in innocence; that through the fall of the first man, you yourselves have become totally depraved, fallible and sinful; and that out of your own strength, you could not even stand up before the judgement of God, indeed, you deserve punishment, death and damnation?

The Congregation answers:

This I do believe and profess.

Second: do you believe, that God, having taken compassion on sinful man, released, for your sake, his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ in the body, by whose once for all perfect sacrifice, He deprived sin of its power and damnation of its strength, and by His mercy freely given, he sets you free through faith, this for the merit of Jesus' blood?

The Congregation answers:

This I do believe and profess.

Third: Do you believe, that God who raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, through him will also raise us from the dead, He will dress our mortal bodies into immortality and he will take us into his eternal glory ?

The Congregation answers:

This I do believe and profess.

Having assuredly confirmed all these, do you pledge and do you vow, that out of thankfulness for all this mercy, you will consecrate your whole life to the Lord, and that in this present world already, you strive for His glory, as befits those who are his redeemed ones?

The Congregation answers:

This I do pledge and vow.

Pastor's testimony:

I too, with you together, believe and profess, pledge and vow all these.

6. Assurance of absolution: Now therefore, I, as my Lord's, Jesus Christ's undeserving, yet ordained servant, I announce to you the pardoning of your sins, which is a free gift of mercy by our Lord God for the sake of His 'holy Son. Amen.

(Pastor announces this joyful news with his arms raised for blessing.)

7. Invitation to the Lord's Table and prayer over the elements. And now, those of you who have fittingly prepared yourselves, make your approach to the holy table with humble hearts and in proper order. Before doing this, let us give thanks and let us pray over the bread and wine in this manner:

See prayers: 71,72,73,74,75,76.

8. Distribution of the Holy Elements:

With these words: Come all, for behold, all is ready.

The Minister (s) will receive the Sacrament at the last. During Communion the Congregation sings appropriate hymns.

9. The Exhortation after Communion:

My beloved ones, it was in this manner that our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the last supper. It was in this manner that the apostles, the reformers and our confessing ancestors partook of it, and by the grace of God we have just partaken of it in the same manner ourselves. But before we release you all, we ask you and warn you, do not make the grace of God futile within you, do not let sin rule within you any longer, but, on the contrary, behave yourselves as befits your Christian destination, so that nothing may deprive you from God's love, which he had declared and which he reaffirmed. in Jesus Christ. As his holy and beloved people, be merciful: dress yourselves in righteousness, humbleness and meekness. Tolerate one another, and if you have grievances against one another, forgive one another as Jesus has forgiven you all. May God's peacefulness reign within your hearts, for it was to this end, that you were destined in one body.

10. Prayer of thanksgiving:

Let us give thanks to God for the mercy communicated to us; let us pray:
See prayers: 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 100, 107.

11. Benediction:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

(41)

Eternal Almighty, majestic Lord God, I -a miserable, powerless and sinful man -make a confession before Thy sacred Majesty .I have offended Thee with my many and diverse sins, namely with my evil words, intentions and perceptions. I have offended Thee with my enviousness, sulkiness, abusive maledictions and keeping of grudges. I have offended Thee by not observing Thy commandments, by my hatefulness, by my evil use of Thy sacred gifts and ,by my sluggishness toward my Christian calling and duty .I have offended Thee by these

and by innumerable sins both hidden and overt, and I have made myself fit to be punished by Thee. But inasmuch as Thou alone art God and Thou art merciful to sinners, I humbly beseech Thy sacred Majesty: in accordance with Thy promise, that in whatever hour a sinful man repented and cried unto Thee, Thou wouldst hear him out and of his falsehood Thou wouldst not make further mention, - forgive my sins, my God. May Thy beloved Son's blood wash away the ugliness of my sins. May His innocence cover up the loathsomeness of my sins. Create a new heart and soul within me, Lord God, and do not deprive me of Thy presence, but rather bestow upon me a share in the gift of the Holy Spirit. Consecrate me in body and soul, that I may be a proper guest at your holy Son's table, and that I may partake of all the goodness that he had earned while blood was dripping from his crumbling body, so that living a pure, a consecrated and an innocent life, upon my death, I may enter into the happiness where Thou art and where Thou reignest with Thy holy Son in unison with the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen. (From the "Agenda" of Stephen Nyilas Milotai, pastor at the court of Gabriel Bethlen. First edition Gyulafehérvár (Alba julia) Transylvania in 1621.)

(42)

Almighty and eternal God, Dear Father in the name of Jesus Christ, We recognize and we confess before Thee, that we humble sinners have been born in sin, we are inclined to wrongdoing, we are inept to righteousness, who day after day do transgress your sacred commandments in numerous ways and means, so that according to a fair judgment from Thee we would deserve damnation and eternal death. But oh my Lord, behold, it is with heavy hearts that we pity and rue our numerous insults to Thee, it is with sincere penitence that we condemn ourselves and our sins; we cry unto Thee with humble hearts: come to our deliverance from misery. Have mercy upon us, Father of Mercy, forgive us our sins for the love of Thy Holy Son, for the love of our Savior! Communicate unto us and nurse within us the gifts of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perceive our sins ever more clearly by their light, that we may renounce and completely rid ourselves of sin by their strength, and that we may produce from ourselves the good fruits of justification and sanctification as a precious offering to Thee through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(John Calvin's prayer of confession as reworked in French and Genevese agenda and as translated into the Hungarian by Sandor Baksay, bishop of the Danubian Synod.)

(43)

Almighty God, merciful Father in Jesus Christ, we humble sinful people confess before Thy sacred countenance, that we were conceived in sin and born in corruption, and that we have been the children of wrathfulness. We have been doing harm to Thy sacred majesty on many occasions and by diverse means, such as by our thoughts, by our talk and by our actions. We have not loved Thee with all our hearts, with all our soul and with all our strength, rather we have, been

catering to worldly things and we have been flattering evil principalities with our admiration. We have not loved our fellow men as ourselves, rather we have hurt them on innumerable occasions with contentiousness, enviousness and hatefulness. These spoiled fruits of our depraved nature make it clear, that as a fair judgment, we deserve damnation and death. But we cast our faith into Thy infinite mercifulness; take pity on us. We beseech Thee not on our own merits, but on the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom Thou sent among us, so that whosoever believed in Him should not perish, but should have eternal life. For His love and the glory of Thy name, be merciful unto us and forgive us our trespasses. Amen.

(Bishop L:isz16 Ravasz.s confessional prayer, 1929.)

(44)

Eternal, almighty Father, Lord God, God of all mercy, I make a confession before Thee as before my merciful Father, my Creator and my Redeemer. I stand before Thee sinful with my failing nature, with my evil talk, with my evil regard, with my evil perception and with my evil acts during my whole life. I would deserve Thy Majesty's anger and eternal damnation, for these, ,but I beseech Thee holy Father of Heaven, for the sake of Thy Son, for Lord Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent to this world in behalf of the sinners, forgive me my innumerable sins, both those that are hidden and those that are evident. Give me the gift of, the Holy Spirit that consecrates, so that through his adjusting of me I may be able to truly recognize Thee, to fear Thee, to honor Thee and that I may be able to love Thee with all my heart, that I may 'also be able to love my brethren and my fellow men as myself just as Thou hast instructed me to do. Dear holy Father of Heaven, do thusly unto me for the sake of Thy holy Son, for the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(From the liturgy used by peter Alvinczi in the Hungarian Reformed Church, Kassa in 1619.)

(45)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thysalvation; and

uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Psalm 51

(46)

But acknowledging that no good may come to us without the sin forgiving grace of God, let us humble ourselves and pray for the forgiveness of our sins: Most holy and merciful Father: We acknowledge and confess in Thy presence our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good, and all our shortcomings and offenses against Thee. Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned -in wandering from Thy ways, in wasting Thy gifts, in forgetting Thy love. -But Thou, O Lord, have pity upon us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased Thee. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and for the sake of Thy dear Son our Savior forgive our sins. And O most holy and loving Father, send Thy purifying grace into our hearts that we may henceforth live in Thy light and walk in Thy ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord, for whose sake we plead to be heard in grace. Amen.

(47)

PRAYER BEFORE THE HOLY COMMUNION

Merciful Father, Holy God, through the Lord Jesus Christ also my heavenly Father: I wish to draw near to the Holy Feast prepared for Thy believers. But as I know that no unclean can approach Thee: forgive, I beseech Thee -for the Lord Jesus' sake -all my sins, and through Thy blessed Spirit make me an acceptable guest at the table of Thy Holy Son. Also fill my heart with assurance, O Lord, that if I worthily partake of the sacred elements, and heartily endeavor to turn away from all sins and devote myself unto all good: Thou also wilt receive me into Thy grace and make me a partaker of eternal salvation. Amen.

(Prayer from the Sarospatak Catechism.)

(71)

PRAYER ABOVE THE BREAD

Lord Jesus, Thou hast said, that if we do not eat of the body of the Son of Man, there will be no life within us; Thou Hast said, that the bread Thou givest is

Thy body, which Thou hast given for the world to have life: oh give us therefore of this bread on all occasions, that our soul may not hunger or die ever. Amen.

PRAYER ABOVE THE CUP

Lord Jesus, Thou hast said, that whosoever drinks of Thy blood, shall have eternal life; Thou hast said, that this cup is a new testament through Thy blood, oh give us this cup therefore on all occasions, that our souls may not thirst, but having, been nourished with Thy blood, our souls may live forever. Amen.
(From B3.1int Revesz's "Agenda", Debrecen, 1853.)

(72)

PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING THE BREAD

Bread of life, Lord Jesus! May this bread, broken as a token of Thy Holy Body, strengthen me unto eternal life. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING THE WINE

Fountain of life, Lord Jesus! May it be granted unto me, that as I partake of this wine, so I may partake of the saving graces of Thy outpoured blood. Amen.

(73)

THE BLESSING OF THE BREAD

We raise the sacramental bread unto Thee our God, we break it and give thanks for it. This reminds us of how our Savior's body was broken, of how He suffered death for our sake and for the sake of Thy eternal love. This is the bread of life, my Lord, for those who truly believe in Thee; it is the food of Heaven for those that humbly repent their sins. Oh grant us, Lord, this bread of heaven as the sign and seal of Thy mercy, of Thy forgiving grace; and while we eat of this, lift our souls into Thy invisible realm, where Thy holy Son lives and reigns; through sincere faith bind us to Him for earthly happiness and eternal salvation. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE WINE

We raise the sacramental cup to Thee for Thy blessing, our Lord; from this Thou soothest the thirsting souls with the drink of life. This is the, blood of that new testament, with which Thou sealest Thy unchangeable promise, Thou pourest strength into discouraged hearts and Thou didst dispatch Thy apostles to spread Thy sacred realm. Oh, as we partake of it, arouse in this cup our faith and also our slumbering sentiments; so that we may now unite with the Lord Jesus in spirit, and so that hereafter neither life nor death may separate us from Him. We raise this cup of the new testament toward Thee with a soul thirsting for Thy justice

and mercy. Oh let Thy eternal blessing descend upon it, for the sake of our mediator, we beseech Thee for the sake of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

(From the Book of Liturgy of the Cis- Tibiscan Synod of the Reformed Church of Hungary, S:irosptak, 1656.)

(74)

ABOVE THE BREAD

Be praised God of majestic glory, Father of all that is merciful, who didst love us lowly sinners and even Thy enemies to such an extent, that Thou gavest Thy dearest treasure, Thy one and only, unto a disgraceful death on the cross for us. Thereafter Thou hast been nursing the souls of the faithful with the merits of His broken body just as assuredly as the broken bread is distributed to us now. Act it therefore, oh our sweet God, that this bread, which we are breaking now, become the sacramental bread of Thy Holy Son's broken body, and that our partaking of this bread ,become our communion with his sacred body for the eternal life of happiness. Amen.

ABOVE THE WINE

Be praised and extolled Lord Jesus Christ, God-given Savior of sinners. Be praised for Thy infinite love for us, as shown when Thou didst not hesitate to sacrifice Thy life and to shed Thy precious blood on the cross. This was for the washing away of our sins and for the quenching of our spiritual thirst, to the testimony of which Thou didst order the continual drinking of the sacramental wine. Act it therefore, oh Jesus, our sweetness, that the wine in this cup now and the wine in these cups hence forth become the sacramental wine of Thy blood shed on the cross, and our partaking of this wine be a communion with Thy holy blood for the life of happiness. Amen.

(From Joseph Karman's "Ecclesiastic Agenda", Losonc, 1787.)

(75)

Our Father, it is with gratitude, that we take bread from thy table, which symbolizes Jesus' broken body and which is the seal of Thy paternal forgiveness; sanctify the bread and bless our lives by forgiving our sins upon the merits of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Father, it is also with gratitude, that we take this cup from Thy table, which is the symbol of Thy covenant of mercy, through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus' blood; we beseech Thee to bless us, and may his blood cleanse us of our sins. Amen.

(76)

Dear heavenly Father, Thy holy Word teaches us that any sort of food, created by Thee is good, if it be received with thanksgiving, for then it is consecrated by Thy Word and the prayer said over it. It is with thanksgiving that we wish to partake upon Thy table, in remembrance of the death of Thy holy Son, and in search of, and for the sealing of our communion with Him and with each other. With the power of Thy Word and Spirit, O Lord, make these fruits of the earth the means of Thy grace; so that while we feed upon them bodily, also our hungering and thirsting souls may, through faith, be nourished by the benefits of the one, all-sufficient and perfect eternal high-priestly sacrifice of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(101)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. We praise Thee, God of goodness, for, behold, Thou forgivest all our iniquities, Thou healest all our diseases, Thou redeemest our life from destruction, Thou crownest us with loving kindness and tender mercies. Lord, Thou art merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy. Thou wilt not always chide; neither wilt Thou keep your anger forever. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is Thy mercy toward them that fear Thee, and as far as the east is from the west, so far hast Thou removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pities his children, so dost Thou Lord pity them that fear Thee. We thank Thee Lord, that Thou hast shown Thy love for us, when Thou gavest Thy holy Son for us, who died for us that had been sinful. O God, Father, maintain and enlarge the assurance in our soul, that we, who have just become righteous through His blood, shall be sheltered by Him from evil; maintain and enlarge the assurance in our soul, that as we had been Thy enemies and as we had been put at peace with Thee through the death of Thy Son, so even more shall we be saved now through the life of Thy Son within us. And since the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children who keep his covenant, bless the Lord, ye his angels, ye heavenly hosts, bless the Lord all his works, bless the Lord O my soul. Amen.

(A paraphrase of Psalm 103 in the Agenda of Stephen Szatm:iri-Otv&, Ersekujv:ir, 1650.)

(102)

Oh merciful God and Father, we thank Thee from all our heart, that Thou hast given Thy one-born Son as a mediator and as a sacrifice to appease Thee for our sins. We thank Thee, that Thou hast provided Him as the food and drink of eternal life. We thank Thee withal, that He 'gave us faith, through which Thou allowest us to partake of these precious benevolences: of the true manna and of

the bread of 'heaven. Behold, Thou hast allowed us to Thy holy table today as well; with a merciful heart Thou hast been our host, and Thou hast satisfied us with the benefits of Thy Spirit. We beseech Thee, oh our faithful God and Father, with Thy Holy Spirit, cultivate within us the memory of our Lord J esus Christ, and the preaching of his death. Let Thy Holy Spirit daily strengthen us in the true faith and let it bring about the perfection of our salutary communion with Christ. Amen.

(A Prayer composed by Jerome a Lasco, Polish reformer, adopted by the Hungarian Reformed Churches as early as 1567.)

(100)

Eternal Almighty, Lord God, glorious father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, in unison with Thy holy Son and the Holy Ghost, art the Creator and Keeper of all beings, we give Thee thanks. We thank Thee, that out of Thy goodness inexpressible, Thou hast looked upon us, who are mean and miserable people as we had been living in sin's and damnation's captivity ever since the fall of our first parents. We thank Thee, that just as Thou hast promised to all the holy fathers since Adam, in the fullness of time, Thou didst send Thy only Son to this world in the likeness of a sinful body, so that He would become an appeasing sacrifice in our behalf and that through Him we would be granted forgiveness of our sins and everlasting life. We thank Thee, that as an assurance of this, Thou hast given us of Thy Holy Spirit, by means of having the Gospel and the sacraments administered to us. We thank Thee, that Thou hast been sheltering Thy Christian Church from the rage of the evil and of the unmerciful, and that Thou hast given it eternal life as promised; to the testimony of this, in this our church, Thou hast just nourished our soul with the body and the blood of Thy Holy Son. We beseech Thee Lord God, arouse our hearts with Thy holy Spirit, that having understood all this, we may keep on giving everlasting thanks for this to Thee, Sacred Majesty, to Thee who livest and rulest with Thy Holy Son and Thy Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

(From the liturgy used by peter Alvinczi in 1619.)

(104)

PRAYER AFTER THE HOLY COMMUNION

I praise Thee, my God and my Father, for all Thy blessings showered upon me, but especially for this: that Thou hast gra'ciously led me to partake of the Holy Supper prepared for Thy believers, and that thereby Thou hast given me assurance that my sins are forgiven and life eternal win be mine. Now, Lord, my lips again vow before Thee, that hereafter I shall refrain from all sin; Thy holy commandments I will constantly ,hold before me and endeavor to regulate my life accordingly. Give me strength and grace, O Lord, for the fulfillment of my vow, that as long as I sojourn on this earth, I may live a holy life pleasing unto Thee,

and after this life I may magnify Thee forever and ever in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

(From the Zorospatak Catechism".)

(105)

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we praise Thee and extol Thee, for Thou hast again amply given us of the blessed benefits of Thy sacraments. Thou hast satisfied us with the food and drink of eternal life and Thou hast again assigned us the signs and seals of Thy mercy. Having been fulfilled with the benefits of Thy altar, behold our Lord, we offer ourselves, our bodies and souls as a holy, as a precious offering, that all of us, who have just united with Jesus Christ and through Him with one another, may grow daily in faith, may rejoice in hope and may enrich ourselves in brotherly love. May praise, glory, honor and thanksgiving descend upon Thy holy name now and forever. Amen.

(Uszlo Ravasz.s thanksgiving prayer, 1929.)

(106)

Almighty and everlasting God, we most heartily thank Thee for Thy rich mercy and unfathomable goodness, vouchsafed to us in this sacred Communion, wherein we have assurance, that we are very members of the mystical body of Thy Son, and heirs through hope of Thine everlasting kingdom. And, as we have been made partakers of Christ, so enable us to hold fast that which we received, that no man may take our crown. Help us, we beseech Thee, to do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for us to walk in, and assist us to remain always in the fold of Thy Church, in the holy fellowship of all faithful people. Bless Thy creatures and Thy children, O Lord, everywhere, be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. Show Thy mercy to them that are afar off, and gather all the lost sheep into Thy fold. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church Universal, our branch of same included, that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Especially give Thy grace to this congregation here present that they may truly serve Thee in holiness, righteousness and soberness all the days of their life. We most humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, to comfort and aid all those, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We also bless Thy Holy Name for all Thy servants who died in our Lord. Grant them continual growth in Thy love, light, peace, and service. Give grace unto us also, so to follow whatever good there was in them that together with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom. Hear us, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Thy dear Son, to Whom, with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

(From the liturgy compiled by Dr. Vincze.)

(107)

Minister:

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; We bless Thee, O Lord for Thy loving kindness, that Thou forgivest all our iniquity, healest all our diseases, redeemest our life from the grave, we thank Thee that Thou crownest us with Thy steadfast love and mercy. Thou art merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We thank Thee that Thou didst not deal with us according to our sins, nor requitest us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Thy steadfast love toward those who fear Thy name. As far as the east is from the west so far Thou didst remove our transgressions from us. We praise Thy name that We can say with Thy covenant people of all ages: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. Bless the Lord, O you His angels, bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will! Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord O My soul! Amen.

IV. THE ORDER OF A HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Compiled by the late Dr. Charles Vincze for the liturgical use of the Hungarian Reformed Church in America.

1. The Invocation:

"Almighty and everlasting God, who, by the blood of Thy dear Son, hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest of all: cleanse our minds, we beseech Thee, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may draw near unto Thee in this Holy Communion with a true heart and undefiled conscience, in full assurance of faith, and may offer unto Thee an acceptable sacrifice in righteousness, and worthily magnify Thy great and glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

2. Hymn -The Scripture Lesson –Hymn

3. The Communion Meditation

4. PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Minister shall say at the conclusion of his meditation:

"But acknowledging that no good may come to us without the sin forgiving grace of God, let us humble ourselves and pray for the forgiveness of our sins: Most holy and merciful Father: We acknowledge and confess in Thy presence our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good, and all our shortcomings and offenses against Thee. Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned -in wandering from Thy ways, in wasting Thy gifts, in forgetting Thy love. -But Thou, O Lord, have pity upon us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased Thee. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and for the sake of Thy dear Son our Savior forgive our sins. And O most holy and loving Father, send Thy purifying grace into our hearts that we may henceforth live in Thy light and walk in Thy ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord, for whose sake we plead to be heard in grace. Amen." (No.46)

5. CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Having confessed our sins let us also confess our faith by saying:

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe a holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Dearly Beloved: Although I doubt not your faith and sincerity, nevertheless, in obedience to the time honored practice of our Church, I address the following questions to you, and ask each and everyone individually to answer same according to his conscience, in an audible manner:

Do you believe and profess that through the fall of the first man, -originally created by God in righteousness, holiness and innocence -you yourself became and are totally depraved, fallable and sinful, so that by your own merit you cannot stand up as in anyway righteous before the judgement seat of God, but deserve punishment, death and damnation?

Congregation in unison: This I do believe and profess.

Do you believe and profess that God, having taken compassion on sinful man, has sent His Holy Son, the Lord Jesus Christ in the body for you; and that through His once- for-all perfect sacrifice He broke all the power of sin and damnation; and that for the sake of the blood of Jesus He makes you justified, - freely and by grace through faith?

Congregation: This I do believe and profess.

Do you, believe and profess that God, who raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, through Him will also raise us, and after clothing our mortal bodies in immortality, will take us into His eternal glory? Congregation: This I do believe and profess. Finally, firmly believing all these, do you solemnly pledge and vow, that out of gratitude for all this mercy and loving kindness you consecrate your whole life unto the Lord, and earnestly strive to glorify Him already on this earth, as it is becoming to His redeemed ones?

Congregation: This I do pledge and vow.

6. Minister:

Now, therefore, relying upon the sincerity of your faith, penitence and pledge, and above all upon the loving kindness of God, I, as an (unworthy though) ordained servant of my Lord Jesus Christ, do declare and pronounce to you the absolution and remission of your sins and the life eternal, which the Lord does grant to all of us, out of His free grace, for the sake of His holy Son. Amen.

7. Let us now attend to the holy words, with which our Blessed Savior instilled, ordained, for all times to come consecrated and sanctified this Holy Supper, and also set the pattern for its proper administration. They are delivered unto us in the Gospels according to the Evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke, and also by the Apostle Paul, in his first epistle to the Corinthians, chapter eleventh, as follows: For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, This is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood: this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come. Following the example of our High priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, let us give thanks and set these elements 'apart for the holy use, for which He has appointed them: Dear heavenly Father, Thy holy Word teaches us that any sort of food, created by Thee is good, if it be received with thanksgiving, for then it is consecrated by Thy Word and the prayer said over it. It is with thanksgiving that we wish to partake upon Thy table, in remembrance of the death of Thy holy Son, and in search of, and for the sealing of our communion with Him and with each other.

With the power of Thy Word and Spirit, O Lord, make these fruits of the earth ,the means of Thy grace; so that while we feed upon them bodily, also our hunger and thirsting souls may, through faith, be nourished by the benefits of the one, all-sufficient and perfect, eternal highpriestly sacrifice of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (No.76)

8. And now the Lord is calling His own to the Feast He prepared for them. Keeping yourselves to the accepted order, "Come, Christian, Come"

Congregational singing, supplemented with that of the choir if there be any, or by suitable organ music, while the communicants present themselves at the Lord's table. In many congregations the male communicants come first, followed by the women. The last one to do so is the Minister. While he does so it is fitting for the congregation to sing an appropriate hymn. After his own Communion the Minister rearranges the Lord's table and addresses the congregation.

9. Dearly Beloved: We have tasted that the Lord is 'gracious. We have been fed by the Bread of Life, refreshed at the Fountainhead of our salvation. Be ye, therefore, watchful and thankful, "for we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end." Let no one, or nothing separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Whether you live or die, be ye the Lord's, 'lest your latter end be worse than the first." "Give diligence to make your calling and election sure, if you do these things, ye shall never fall", but "an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Let us pray.

10. Almighty and everlasting God, we most heartily thank Thee for Thy rich mercy and unfathomable goodness, vouchsafed to us in this sacred Communion, wherein we have assurance, that we are very members of the mystical body of Thy Son, and heirs through hope of Thine everlasting kingdom. And, as we have been made partakers of Christ, so enable us to hold fast that which we received, that no man may take our crown. Help us, we beseech Thee, to do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for us to walk in, and assist us to remain always in the fold of Thy Church, in the holy fellowship of all faithful people. Bless Thy creatures and Thy children, O Lord, everywhere; be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. Show Thy mercy to them that are afar off, and gather all the lost sheep into Thy fold. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church Universal, our branch of same included, that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Especially give Thy grace to this congregation here present that they may truly serve Thee in holiness, righteousness and soberness all the days of their life. We most humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, to comfort and aid all those, who in this transitory life are

in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We also bless Thy Holy Name for all Thy servants who died in our Lord. Grant them continual growth in Thy love, light, peace, and service. Give grace unto us also, so to follow whatever good there was in them that together with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom. Hear us, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Thy dear Son, to Whom, with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

And now, Beloved, render visible tokens of your gratitude for all the goodness of the Lord, who loveth a cheerful giver, for He Himself is the gracious Giver of all good and perfect gifts.

(During the offerings, the choir may sing, or the organist may play suitable sacred music.)

Offertory Prayer:

Our gracious Father, we know that we cannot please Thee with anything less than ourselves. Let this offering be, therefore the symbol, the token of our self dedication unto Thee. Accept it and bless it, together with ourselves, for the service of Thy glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, Thy supreme gift, we ask. Amen.

11. The Benediction:

"And now, the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of HIS Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

V Another Liturgy for Holy Communion humbly recommended for the use of the Hungarian Reformed Churches in North America:

1. The Invocation:

"May our deliverance come from God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

2. Scripture Lesson.
3. The Communion Meditation.
4. Prayer of Confession:

Minister:

Merciful and holy God, through the Lord Jesus Christ also our heavenly Father, we wish to draw near to the holy feast prepared for Thy believers. But as we know that no unclean can approach Thee, forgive, we beseech Thee -for the Lord Jesus' sake -all our sins, and through Thy blessed Spirit make us acceptable guests at the table of Thy holy Son. Also fill our hearts with assurance, O Lord, that if we worthily partake of the sacred elements, and heartily endeavor to turn away from all sins and devote ourselves unto all good: Thou also wilt receive us into Thy grace and make us partakers of eternal salvation. Amen.

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5. Confession of Faith:

Minister:

Having confessed our sins, let us also confess our faith by saying:

People and Minister in unison:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. -And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell. -The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost A holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Minister shall continue:

Dearly beloved, although I doubt not your faith and sincerity, nevertheless in obedience to the time honored practice of our Church, I address the following questions to you, and ask each and everyone to answer same according to his conscience, in an audible manner:

Minister:

Do you believe and profess that through the fall of the first man, - originally created by God in righteousness, holiness and innocence -you yourself became and are totally depraved, fallable and sinful, so that by your own merit you cannot stand up as in anyway righteous before the judgment seat of God, but deserve punishment, death and damnation?

People: This I do believe and profess.

Minister:

Do you believe and profess that God, having taken compassion on sinful man, has sent His holy Son, the Lord Jesus Christ in the body for you; and that through His once-for-all perfect sacrifice He broke all the power of sin and damnation and that for the sake of the blood of Jesus He makes You justified, - freely and by grace through faith?

People: This I do believe and profess.

Minister:

Do you believe and profess that God, who raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, through Him will 'also raise us, and after resurrecting our mortal bodies from the dust, will take us into His eternal glory?

People: This I do believe and profess.

Minister:

Finally, firmly believing all these, do you solemnly pledge and vow, that out of gratitude for all this mercy and loving kindness you consecrate your whole life unto the Lord, and earnestly strive to glorify Him already on this earth, as it is becoming to His redeemed ones?

People: This I do pledge and vow.

6. Assurance of Pardon or Absolution:

Minister:

Now, therefore, relying upon the sincerity of your faith, penitence and pledge, and above all upon the loving kindness of God, I as an unworthy though ordained servant of my Lord Jesus Christ, do declare and pronounce to you the absolution and remission of your sins and the life eternal, which the Lord does grant to all of us, out of His free grace, for the sake 'of His holy Son. Amen.

7. The Words of Institution:

Minister:

Let us now attend to the Holy Words, with which our blessed Savior instituted, ordained for all times to come consecrated and sanctified this Holy Supper and also set the pattern for its proper administration. They are delivered unto us in the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke, and also by Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapter eleventh as follows: For I received from the Lord which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same manner also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Minister:

Following the example of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, let us give thanks and set these elements apart for the holy use, for which He has appointed them: Our Lord Jesus, Thou hast said that if we do not eat the broken body of the Son of Man, no life will be found in us; Thou hast said that this bread as offered now to us by Thy love is Thy body Thou gavest for the salvation of mankind, O, give us this, bread always, that our souls should never know the sufferings of hunger and should never taste eternal death. Our Lord Jesus, Thou hast promised that whosoever drinks Thy blood shall have life everlasting; Thou hast said this cup to be the new covenant in Thy outpoured blood, O, grant us Thy cup always that our souls should not thirst, but by the renewing power of Thy blood should live for ever with Thee. Amen.

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8. Invitation:

Minister:

And now the Lord is calling His own to the feast He prepared for them, Ye who did truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and intend to lead a new life in Jesus Christ and walking henceforth in His ways: Draw near with faith and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort, keeping yourselves to the accepted order, "Come, Christians, Come."

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Singing of appropriate hymns as announced. For your private devotional use, here are the examples of two prayers:

The Prayer before receiving the Bread:

Bread of Life, Lord Jesus, may this bread broken as a token of Thy holy body, strengthen me unto eternal life.

The Prayer before receiving the Wine:

Fountain of Life, Lord Jesus, may it be granted unto me, that as I partake of this wine, so I may partake of the saving graces of Thy outpoured blood.

(No.72)

THE COMMUNION OF THE MINISTER (S)

Congregation may sing during the communion of the ministers the English version of the traditional Hungarian Hymn 371,3. (Geneva Psalter 65:3)

"There, in Thy holy habitation,
Thou wilt Thy saints provide
With every blessing of salvation,
Till all are satisfied.
By awful deeds, so just and mighty,
God saves us from our foe;
To all who walk with Him uprightly
He will salvation show."

9. The Exhortation:

Minister:

Thus, our Redeemer instituted the Lord's Supper, in unbroken succession His Covenant People shared His precious gifts in the times of the Apostles, the Church Fathers, the Reformers, our own Fathers -the Martyrs and the galley-slaves -so did we. We have tasted that the Lord is gracious. We have been fed by the Bread of Life, refreshed at the Fountainhead of our salvation. Be ye, therefore, watchful and thankful, "for we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end:' Let no one or nothing separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for if ye do these things, ye shall

never fall," but "an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." Let us pray!

10. The Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Minister:

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name
Bless the Lord, O my soul, forget not all His benefits; We bless Thee, O Lord for Thy loving kindness, that Thou forgivest all our iniquity, healest all our diseases redeemest our life from the grave, we thank Thee that Thou crownest us with Thy steadfast love and mercy. Thou art merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We thank Thee that Thou didst not deal with us according to our sins, nor requitest us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high 'above the earth, so great is Thy steadfast love toward those who fear Thy name. As far as the east is from the west so far Thou didst remove our transgressions from us. We praise Thy name that we can say with Thy covenant people of all ages: The steadfast love of ilie Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. Bless the Lord, O you His angels, bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord O My soul!" Amen.

People and Minister in unison: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory , forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERINGS:

Minister:

And, now Beloved, render visible tokens of your gratitude for all the goodness of the Lord, who loveth a cheerful giver, for He Himself is the gracious giver of all good and perfect gifts.

OFFERTORY DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERINGS:

Minister:

Our gracious Father, we know that we cannot please Thee with anything less than ourselves. Let this dedication unto Thee. Accept it, and bless it, together

with ourselves, for the service of Thy glory. In the name of Christ Jesus, Thy Supreme gift, we ask. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS IF ANY. CLOSING HYMN

11. THE BENEDICTION

Minister:

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Compiled for the 70th Anniversary Holy Communion Service of the Hungarian Reformed Church, Passaic, New Jersey.

offerings be, therefore the symbol, the token of our self