

## A NEW YEAR COMMUNION LITANY (Adapted: John W. Vest)

Liturgist: May the God of new beginnings be with you **And also with you.**  
People of God, lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the One who makes**

**all things, including us, new.**

Children of God, sing praises to the One who gives you new life.

**We praise the One who continues to surprise us with hope and grace.**

God of wisdom and truth, at the beginning of this new year we look back and we look forward. In the year that has passed we experienced joy and we experienced sorrow; we felt blessed and we felt challenged. Some things went by much too fast, and some things lingered for far too long. We are reminded that you are present through it all. We are reminded that we are never alone. We are reminded that nothing can separate us from your love.

So at the beginning of this New Year, we pause to reflect on the year that has passed. We remember the things from this past year that we are most thankful for. We recall the moments we were the happiest. We consider the times we felt most alive. We recognize the times we gave and received the most love. We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times. We also remember the things from this past year that we are least thankful for. We recall the moments we were the least happy. We consider the times we felt life draining from us. We recognize the times we gave and received the least love. We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times too.

Gracious God, at the beginning of this New Year, we also look forward to the year to come. We are confident that you will be with us still, when we are thankful and when we are not; when we are happy and when we are sad; when we feel alive and when we feel drained; when we give and receive love and when we do not.

Pastor Clarissa: God, the world we live in is messy and challenging, it is the world of King Herod, a world of pain, a world of doubt, a world of fear, a world of jealousy, a world of violence, a world of domination, a world of injustice, a world of human failings. Yet, God, you are with us always. So give us grace and give us courage to live faithfully in this imperfect world. Remind us always of the promise of your kingdom, emerging around us and through us Jesus, you invite us to your table, freely, without condition. We cannot earn a seat at your table and yet we are here. We came together as individuals, but have now formed a community of believers. Just as the grapes and the grains of wheat are transformed, we also are transformed by your grace and your love.

Christ, you have brought us together into your extraordinary presence. We have no words with which to explain or to fully understand, and yet we are here with open

hearts and open hands. As we work together to make this world the New Jerusalem, we ask that you continue to transform us.

A New Year is upon us, a year full of your promise and possibilities. Help us to see ourselves in a new light and fill us with a desire for change. You taught us that God's grace is full of abundance to be shared with everyone. Encourage us to share your love and your gifts with those around us.

We have come to this table at your invitation. Once strangers, now family. Together, we lift up our voices to give you praise and thanksgiving:

**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.**

In this act of sharing a common meal, we ask the Holy Spirit to come to us. At this table, we are able to see, smell, touch and taste the gifts that our God freely offers to us. And yet, this table, is filled with not only God's gifts to us, but also with our dedications to God for the New Year. Fill us, Holy Spirit, with the promise of new possibilities and open our hearts to the New Jerusalem here on earth. As we give thanks for his life, and remember his death and resurrection, we will talk of that mystery which is our faith:

**Christ died, so sin would have no more power over us; Christ rose, destroying death's grip on us; when the new heaven and new earth come, Christ will make all things, including us, new.**

In these sacred moments, send Your Spirit to sanctify the bread and the cup, and to open the hearts of those who approach the Table. As the Bread of life touches our lips, may we be strengthened to serve those whom the world has forgotten. As the Cup of salvation quenches our thirst for You, may we be enabled to bring relief to those who wander the desert wastes of our society. And when all time ends, and all people are gathered around Your Table in Heaven, we will rejoice in Your presence, and sing your praises forever: One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### ***POST COMMUNION PRAYER***

**Each time I take communion, Lord, I want to recommit my life, my heart, my thoughts, my everything to You. Fill me today with Your powerful Spirit. As I leave this place, help me to hold this fresh remembrance and the story that never grows old close to my heart. Help me to share its message faithfully as You give opportunity. Let us look for Christ wherever we go. Let us never stop seeking or believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness, which the darkness shall not overcome. And may the love of the Creator, the joy of the Spirit, and the peace of the Christ-child be with you this New Year, and evermore, Amen.**