

May We Be One (Communion Hymn)
Gather Hymnal #316

Notes:

The Gather Hymnal in the Pew only has the Refrain. The Refrain is patterned after one of the Memorial Acclamations said during the Eucharistic Prayer:

Refrain:

"When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
We proclaim your death Lord Jesus.
So as we share this feast may we become,
healing and light and peace.
May we be one."

Verses:

The verses are sung by the CHOIR with the ASSEMBLY replying (Amen, Amen) in the format:

"This is the bread that..." "Amen, Amen."
"This is the cup that..." "Amen, Amen."

The verses are patterned like the dialogue between the Eucharistic Minister and the Communicants in the Communion Rite which is:

Minister: "(This is) the Body of Christ" **Communicant:** "Amen"
Minister: "(This is) the Blood of Christ" **Communicant:** "Amen"

Effect:

The effect is that those singing the song are participating in the same communal ritual of Communion. So even though members of the catechumenate and candidates for full membership in the church are still waiting to receive Communion, you were able to participate in communion: to be offered a share in Christ's Body and Blood and to offer your "Amen" in reply.

One more thing to note:

The verses knit together and tell the story of God's presence in the lives of humanity from Old Testament to Jesus Christ's arrival. It is important for us to be familiar with the figures in these stories and to see in them and in the sacrament of Communion the same presence of God and His faithfulness to us fulfilled in the utmost way by the gift of his Son.

Refrain:

"When we eat this bread and drink this cup, We proclaim your death Lord Jesus.
So as we share this feast may we become, healing and light and peace. May we be one."

Verse 1:

Choir	Assembly
This is the bread of Israel's wandering	Amen, amen
The bread that strengthened Elijah	Amen, amen
The bread that fed many thousands	Amen, amen
This is the bread of Judas betrayal	Amen, amen
All: Take and eat; this bread is the life of God. (To Refrain).	

Verse 2:

Choir	Assembly
This is the bread of rain and of sunlight	Amen, amen
The bread of earth's fertile bounty	Amen, amen
The bread of wheat and of barley	Amen, amen
This is the bread of earth's many colors	Amen, amen
All: Take and eat; this bread is the life of God. (To Refrain).	

Verse 3:

Choir	Assembly
This is the blessing cup of the Sabbath	Amen, amen
The cup of Cana's amazement	Amen, amen
The cup that would not pass from you	Amen, amen
This is the cup now shared in your memory	Amen, amen
All: Take and drink; this cup is the life of God. (To Refrain).	

Verse 4:

Choir	Assembly
This is the wine of planting and pruning	Amen, amen
The cup of burgeoning vineyards	Amen, amen
The cup that would not pass from you	Amen, amen
This is the wine waiting in darkness	Amen, amen
All: Take and drink; this cup is the life of God. (To Refrain).	

Verse 5:

Choir	Assembly
This is a people homeless and wandering	Amen, amen
A people at home with each other	Amen, amen
A people gathered at table	Amen, amen
This is a people grateful for blessing	Amen, amen
All: And deep within all people the breath of God (To Refrain).	

Verse 6:

Choir	Assembly
This is the bread we pass as forgiveness	Amen, amen
A cup we share as our welcome	Amen, amen
A table open to strangers	Amen, amen
This is a banquet of rest for the weary	Amen, amen
All: And deep within all people the breath of God (To Refrain).	