CONSULTATION ON CHURCH UNION LITURGY

This liturgy, like the Lima Eucharistic Liturgy, is recommended for occasional use by the churches, particularly in ecumenical settings, but also, perhaps, within the context of a particular congregation’s worship when the relationship to the universal church is being emphasized. Therefore, approval of this liturgy for use by RCA congregations should not to be understood to imply regular use or adoption of the form (MGS 1988, p. 213).

M = Minister  
C = Congregation

Service of the Table

THE PEACE
M: The peace of Christ be with you.  
C: And also with you.

(The ministers and people may stand and exchange signs and words of God’s peace.)

PRESENTING THE GIFTS

GREAT THANKSGIVING
M: Lift up your hearts.  
C: We lift them to the Lord.  
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

M: It is right and good to give you thanks, Almighty God, for you are the source of light and life. You made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ. In all times and places your people proclaim your glory in unending praise:

(Local congregations and eucharistic communities are encouraged to make their own decisions about the content and style of the preface, focusing on general themes stressing the creation, the season or day in the church year, or a local occasion.)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

M: We remember with joy the grace by which you created all things and made us in your own image. We rejoice that you called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations. Yet we rebelled against your will. In spite of the prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continued to break your covenant.

In the fullness of time, you sent your only son to save us, Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of your favored one, Mary, sharing our life, he reconciled us to your love.
At the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him, anointing him to preach the good news of your reign.

He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of your compassion.

He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of your grace.

We beheld his glory. On the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread; giving thanks to you, he broke the bread and offered it to his disciples, saying:

“Take this and eat; this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.”

Taking a cup, again he gave thanks to you, shared the cup with his disciples and said:

“This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Drink from this all of you. This is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.”

After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by his followers and beaten.

He stood trial and was put to death on a cross.

Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, he was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.

Through him you bestow the gift of your Spirit uniting your church, empowering its mission, and leading us into the new creation you have promised.

Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption you won for us in Jesus Christ.

Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C:** Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**M:** Loving God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Grant that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed through his blood, serving and reconciling all people to you.

Remember your church, scattered upon the face of the earth: gather it in unity and preserve it in truth.

Remember the saints who have gone before us especially _____________ and _________________.

(here may occur special names)

In communion with them and with all creation, we worship and glorify you always:

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church,
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God,
now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD
(The minister breaks the bread in silence or while saying:)

M: The bread which we break,
   Is it not a sharing in the Body of Christ?
   Because there is one bread,
   we who are many are one body,
   for we all partake of the one bread.
   The wine which we drink,
   is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?
   The cup which we bless
   is the communion in the blood of Christ.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP