

**Spiritual Communion Prayer**  
**The Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**The Sunday After New Year's Day**  
**January 3, 2021**

Ever-loving God, we meet this New Year in hope, in spite of the many difficult consequences of the year we leave behind. We are separated from one another, yet we are united in our faith that gives us hope for a world with greater possibilities than this moment in time.

Our "communion" means that we are "in union with" each other. The bread and wine of the Church's Holy Communion are the means by which we enter into that union with God ... with Jesus ... and with each other. It brings us that intimacy of spirit that can only be known by going outside ourselves to a commitment to love others in the world for the common good.

We give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth, who loved so greatly and taught so clearly and courageously that he was able to set people free from images and ideas and all that bound them into a fear and a false sense of separation from each other and the Spirit of all life.

We remember the night before Jesus died, when he took bread, gave thanks for everything he had, broke the bread and shared it with his friends asking them to remember his total surrender to the Spirit of Life and Love and his enduring love for each of them. We take this bread and eat it mindful of the Spirit at work in our lives, in the ordinary, in the everyday, in the midst of a pandemic with the separation it brings, and in our desire to love as generously as Jesus loved.

Likewise, knowing his life was to be poured out, Jesus shared a cup of wine with his friends. We drink now, mindful of our bonding with Jesus and with all people through the Spirit at work in our lives.

Through Jesus, we have learned how our loving is a sharing in the life of this Spirit. In him we see the Spirit of life challenging each of us to make the Spirit's presence on earth more visible by the way we act and love those around us.

We ask for the strength of this Spirit of Life as we face the days and weeks ahead with the possibility of another spike in COVID-19 cases, and instill us with the hope that the vaccine against this horrible disease might bring us a new day in this New Year, and a new way of being in your love.

Amen.