Rite for Spiritual Communion in the Absence of a Priest

This service is intended for use when the Holy Eucharist cannot be celebrated. It may be led by a Deacon or a Lay Person.

The people standing, the Officiant says

   Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

   And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

   Amen.

In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost

Officiant   Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People     The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

In Lent and on other penitential occasions

Officiant   Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People     His mercy endures for ever.

All kneeling, the Officiant leads the Decalogue

Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.
Amen. Lord have mercy.
You shall not commit adultery.
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

You shall not steal.
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

You shall not be a false witness.
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

_The Officiant may read one of the following sentences_

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."  _Mark 12:29-31_

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  _1 John 1:8,9_

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.  _Hebrews 4:14,16_

_The Officiant then says_

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

_Silence may be kept._

_Officiant and People_

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

On other occasions the following is used

Lord, have mercy.   Kyrie eleison.
Christ, have mercy.   or   Christe eleison.
Lord, have mercy.   Kyrie eleison.

or this
Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Officiant says to the people

The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

The Officiant says the Collect.

People Amen.

The Lessons

The people sit. The Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading (Lesson) from _________________.

A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

or the Reader may say Here ends the Reading (Lesson).

Silence may follow

A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Prayer is offered with intercession for

The Universal Church, its members, and its mission
The Nation and all in authority
The welfare of the world
The concerns of the local community
Those who suffer and those in any trouble
The departed (with commemoration of a saint when appropriate)

See the forms beginning on page 383 of the Book of Common Prayer.
The Spiritual Communion

The Officiant leads the People in reciting Psalm 63.

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.
For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.
So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.
My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.
For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

People and Officiant

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 trespasses, 
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, 
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, 
and the power, and the glory, 
for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, 
hallowed be your Name, 
your kingdom come, 
your will be done, 
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. 
Forgive us our sins 
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, 
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, 
and the glory are yours, 
now and for ever. Amen.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.
Officiant

In union, O Lord, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Officiant concludes with the following

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14