The Basic Shape of Communion Liturgy

Memorize this, and you can eucharisté extemporaneously, able to riff on the Word proclaimed in accord with the Holy Spirit. Notice the Trinitarian structure.

Invitation to the Table

Opening dialogue with sursum corda (“Lift up your hearts

Praise to God for God’s works with the people of God

Sanctus (= “holy’) or the “Holy, holy, holy . . .”

Praise for Christ Jesus

[Words of Institution (Jesus’ words at Last Supper) may go here or later]

Anamnesis & memorial acclamation (i.e. “Therefore, remembering Christ we keep the faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.”)

Epiclesis (prayer for Holy Spirit to enliven our meal, make us one with Christ and one another)

[Prayers of intercession may be inserted here]

The Lord’s Prayer

[Words of Institution (Jesus’ words at Last Supper) or words around breaking bread and pouring cup if Words of Institution done earlier]

Communion (eating and drinking)

Prayer after Communion (with thanksgiving for our union in Christ) that we go forth to live according to the Lord’s Table manners)