

Worship Materials for the October 2008 Fast

Sunday, October 5, 2008 (World Communion Sunday)

CALL TO WORSHIP / OPENING SENTENCES

(1)

ALLELUIA!

Psalm 146

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;**

who keeps faith forever;

who brings justice to the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

(2)

Is not this the fast that God chooses:

Isaiah 58

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn,

and your healing will spring up quickly;

your liberator shall go before you,

and the glory of the LORD will be all around you.

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;

you will cry for help, and God will say, here I am.

CALL TO CONFESSION

(1)

The grace of God is an abundant feast, spread for all people.

The love of God is a deep fountain, overflowing in the world.

Trusting in God's abundant grace and deep love, let us confess our sin.

(2)

From the baptismal font:

The prophet Isaiah said:

Isaiah 55

Let everyone who thirsts come to the waters;

and those that have no money, let them come and eat!
Seek the HOLY ONE, where grace is found;
call upon God, who is always near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways,
and the unrighteous abandon their plans;
let them return to the LORD,
who will have mercy on them,
and will abundantly pardon them.

The deep compassion and abundant grace of God
are poured out for us through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Therefore, let us confess our sin,
confident in God's redeeming love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(1)

**God of eternal justice and endless mercy,
we confess our sins of action and complicity,
sins that have oppressed our sisters and brothers,
compromised our witness to the gospel,
and endangered the earth you made.
We have found profit and pleasure in economic injustice.
We are consumed by selfishness and captivated by greed.
We have plundered the resources of nature,
failing to be responsible caretakers for your creation.
We have fractured your church and abandoned your mission.**

**Forgive us, gracious God.
Restore in us a vision of abundant life for all,
and a longing for the promise of your peaceable realm.**

Based on the Accra Confession

(2)

**Christ, our suffering Savior, have mercy on us.
We have failed to see your face in the faces of the poor.
You were hungry and we gave you no food,
you were thirsty and we gave you nothing to drink,
you were a stranger and we did not welcome you,
naked and we did not give you clothing,
sick and in prison and we did not visit you.**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Empty us of our sin, our selfishness and fear,
and fill us with your love and compassion for the world.**

Matthew 25

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

(1)

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,

John 6

and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right,
for they will be filled.

Matthew 5

Friends, hear and believe the promise of the gospel:
by the grace of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven,
the poor and lowly are lifted up,
and the hungry are filled with good things.
Thanks be to God!

(2)

Lifting water from the font:

As the rain pours down from heaven, watering the earth
so that it may bring forth bread for the hungry,
the word of God flows freely
so that the promise of God may be fulfilled.
You shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you will burst into song,
and the trees of the fields will clap their hands.

Isaiah 55

Friends, hear the promise of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
loving God, creator and sustainer of all life.
You planted the first fields—
wheat, barley, rice, and maize—
and made us in your image to care for your creation.
You fed your people in the wilderness
with manna from heaven,
leading them to a land of milk and honey.
When human greed trampled the poor
you spoke through the prophets,
calling us to worship you with justice and peace.

Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent Jesus Christ, the living bread,

to lift up the oppressed and lowly
and fill the hungry with good things.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with all the faithful of every time and place
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.
He taught us to share the abundance of your love,
feeding the multitude, eating with sinners and strangers,
offering his own body to save us,
and pouring out his life for the world.
When the risen Christ appeared to his disciples
he made himself known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Even now he sets the table for us,
inviting all to taste and see that you are good.

The words of institution may be spoken here or at the breaking of the bread.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus,
on the night before he died, took bread,
and after giving thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
and one with all who share this meal,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be Christ's body in the world.

Keep us faithful to Christ's teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers,
sharing our goods with one another,
and giving our possessions to those who are in need,
so that all people may have their daily bread,
this day and every day.

Just as the grain, once scattered across the hills,
was gathered together in this loaf of bread,
gather your people from the ends of the earth,
so that we may feast with you in glory
in the joy of your new creation.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray.

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf,
we, many as we are, are one body;
for it is one loaf of which we all partake.

When we break the bread,
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

When we give thanks over the cup,
is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We give you thanks, eternal God,
that you have fed us in this sacrament.
Fill us with a hunger for justice
and a thirst for what is right
until all people may taste and see your goodness;
through Jesus Christ, the bread of life.**

CHARGE

(1)

God has shown us what is good.
What does the HOLY ONE require of you?
**To do justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Micah 6

(2)

Take the gifts that God has given you—
your faith, your bread, your very life—
let Christ bless them, and break them,
and share them with a hungry world.

Matthew 26

BLESSING

(1)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Alleluia! Amen.

2 Corinthians 13

(2)

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord be kind and gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace.
Alleluia! Amen.

Numbers 6