

Sharing the Bread of Life

Central Presbyterian Church / Sunday, May 25, 2008 6 pm

— *Gathering* —

OPENING SENTENCES

ALLELUIA!

Psalm 146:1-2, 5-7

Praise the HOLY ONE, O my soul!

I will praise the HOLY ONE 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 HOLY ONE 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.

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God,
you are faithful in all your promises,
and just in all your ways.

Book of Common Worship, 777 (adapted)

Govern us, for we are weak;
strengthen us, for we are failing;
refresh us, for we are famished;
abundantly bestow your gifts upon us.

Defend us from evil,
that we may not be tempted from your way,
but may praise your name forever.

OPENING HYMN

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

STF 2126

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.**

silent prayer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE PEACE

— *The Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from your mouth.
Make us hungry for this heavenly food,
that it may nourish us today in the ways of abundant life;
through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven.

FIRST READING Exodus 16:1-3, 11-18

PSALM Psalm 145:13-19, 21

HOLY ONE, you uphold all who are falling,
and you raise up all who are bowed down.
**The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.**

You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
**You are just in all your ways,
and kind in all your deeds.**

You are near to all who call on you,
to all who call on you in truth.
**You fulfill the desire of those who worship you;
you hear their cry, and save them.**

Therefore my mouth will speak your praise, O GOD.
All flesh will bless your holy name forever and ever.

SECOND READING Acts 2:38-47

GOSPEL READING John 6:25-35

SILENCE / REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions for the Christian People, 177 (adapted)

We hunger for the life of God among us and in our world.
In the name of our Savior Jesus,
let us call upon the one who satisfies every human need,
saying, Gracious God: **Hear our prayer.**

For the church scattered throughout the world,
that united in one bread and one cup of the eucharist,
a single voice might proclaim in word and deed the saving power of Christ.
Gracious God: **Hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and for their leaders,
that an equal sharing of the earth's bounty
might bring greater peace and joy to all people.
Gracious God: **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have no bread, no cup;
for the homeless and the abandoned;
that women and men of good will might respond generously to their need.
Gracious God: **Hear our prayer.**

For this community of faith,
that strengthened by your Word and Sacrament
we may be united in a communion of hearts and minds
and so offer our lives in loving service to the world.
Gracious God: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, the love of Christ poured out for us in his body and blood
is the faithful sign of your presence and power in our lives.
Hear all the prayers of your faithful people,
and out of the abundance of your mercy grant us what we truly need,
for we call upon you in the name of Jesus,
our friend and our food, forever and ever.

— *Eucharist* —

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

John 6:35

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
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 5:6

OFFERING HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

PH 514

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.

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

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

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.**

— *Sending* —

CLOSING HYMN

O for a World

PH 386

CHARGE

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 6:8

BLESSING

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

TABLE PRAYER (BLESSING FOR A MEAL)

Give thanks to the Holy One, who is good,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

God of gracious hospitality and abundant life,
you are bread for the hungry,
drink for the thirsty,
welcome for the stranger,
and good news for the poor.
Spread this table as wide as your love,
so that there might be room for everyone
and food enough for all to share;
through Jesus Christ, the living bread.