Worship Resources for Souper Bowl Sunday

You can find all you need to do a Souper Bowl Party and raise money for hunger at http://www.souperbowl.org/

Although those of us who are football fans might be convinced that God is also a fan, the Lord has some things to say about the priorities of our culture, obsessed as it is with sports to the detriment of other societal needs. (See, for example, Amos 6:1-7)

Prayer of Confession:

A Prayer for Big Game Days

We vote to raise stadiums
but refuse to fund arts and education,
choosing circuses over bread.
Men bash themselves into concussions
for our amusement,
and we happily cheer.
Lord, in your mercy,
Forgive us.

Hearing “sports are good for the economy!”
we take the best land
with panoramic views
so our stadium will look good on TV,
hiding the homeless
displaced by misplaced values.
Lord, in your mercy,
Forgive us.

We search the internet
for the best recipes
of food to serve
at our super bowl parties
while people search through garbage
for morsels to feed their growling stomachs.
Lord, in your mercy,
Forgive us.

We watch quarterbacks scramble,
basketball players rebound rims,
baseball players hit home runs,
and avert our eyes from beggars
scrambling for coins
and children running from abusive homes.
Lord, in your mercy,
Forgive us.
We search for news of the latest draft,  
endless prophecies of the big game,  
replays of the key pass, catch, and steal,  
while youth with no other way out of poverty  
sign on as cannon fodder  
or are drafted into wars’ stolen life.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Forgive us.**  

Oh, Lord, you created us in loving play  
and set us on this earth to enjoy life in all its fullness.  
Help us to watch for those who need your care  
more assiduously than we watch the big game.  
Prompt us to give to those whom life has benched  
as eagerly as we jump for joy when our team scores.  
Urge us to share our food as gladly with those who hunger  
as we prepare feasts for honored guests.  
And encourage us always  
to place our loyalties first  
in your justice and love  
through Jesus Christ we pray.  
**Amen.**  
- Teresa Lockhart Stricklen

**Invitation to the Offering:**  
Offering time is not a commercial break in worship. It is an integral part of our worship to God as part of our grateful response to God’s grace in Christ. The Lord who spared no expense in recruiting us, invites us to offer our gifts to be used for God’s work in the world. With glad and generous hearts, let us offer our gifts unto the Lord.  
- Elaine Sveet

**Offering Prayer of Dedication:**  
We thank you Holy God, that you do not make our lives a spectator sport. You do not cheer us on from distant stands, wearing a bright jersey with your name on it. You are on the field with us. And we proudly wear your team jersey. Bless these offerings, Lord, with your Spirit so they might: win more hearts for you, touch the down-hearted, raise hopes upright, and heal the injured. Coach us, Lord. Design plays for us. Work through us and our offerings for your gain to the glory of Christ Jesus. And all God’s people said, “**Amen.**”  
- Elaine Sveet

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**  
We thank you, Creator God, that you made us in loving play and want us to play with you and play well together with one another. Thank you for the joy of living that you have placed within us: for the ability to run, and catch, and work together toward a common goal. Thank you for creating us out of your compassion with a desire to care for one another. Thank you for these gifts and for the generosity out of which they’re given. Multiply these gifts that all might be caught up in the goodness of your leisurely love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen.**  
- Teresa Lockhart Stricklen