

Litany for the Sharing of Bread

LEADER: Welcome to you all in the name of Christ, for this is God's house and God's table, and we are God's people. Let us rejoice and be glad, for this is the day the Lord has made.

PEOPLE: Yes! Let us rejoice and be glad.

LEADER: Do you know why we gather this evening?

PEOPLE: Yes! We come to share a meal together.

LEADER: Is that all?

PEOPLE: No! We also come to be with one another and to share our lives as we share this meal.

LEADER: And is there yet another reason for our coming together?

PEOPLE: Yes! To express our faith and our thanksgiving.

Sharing of the Bread

LEADER: I offer to you bread: Bread that is necessary for life,
Bread which comes as a gift from God, and, for Christians,
Bread broken and shared as a symbol of Christ's body given for us.

PEOPLE: What have we done to earn such a gift?

LEADER: The truth is that we have not earned this bread, it is a gift from God. But what if we feel unworthy to receive this bread? Please know that everyone here is welcome to this bread, not because of our worthiness, but because God loves us and wants us to have it.

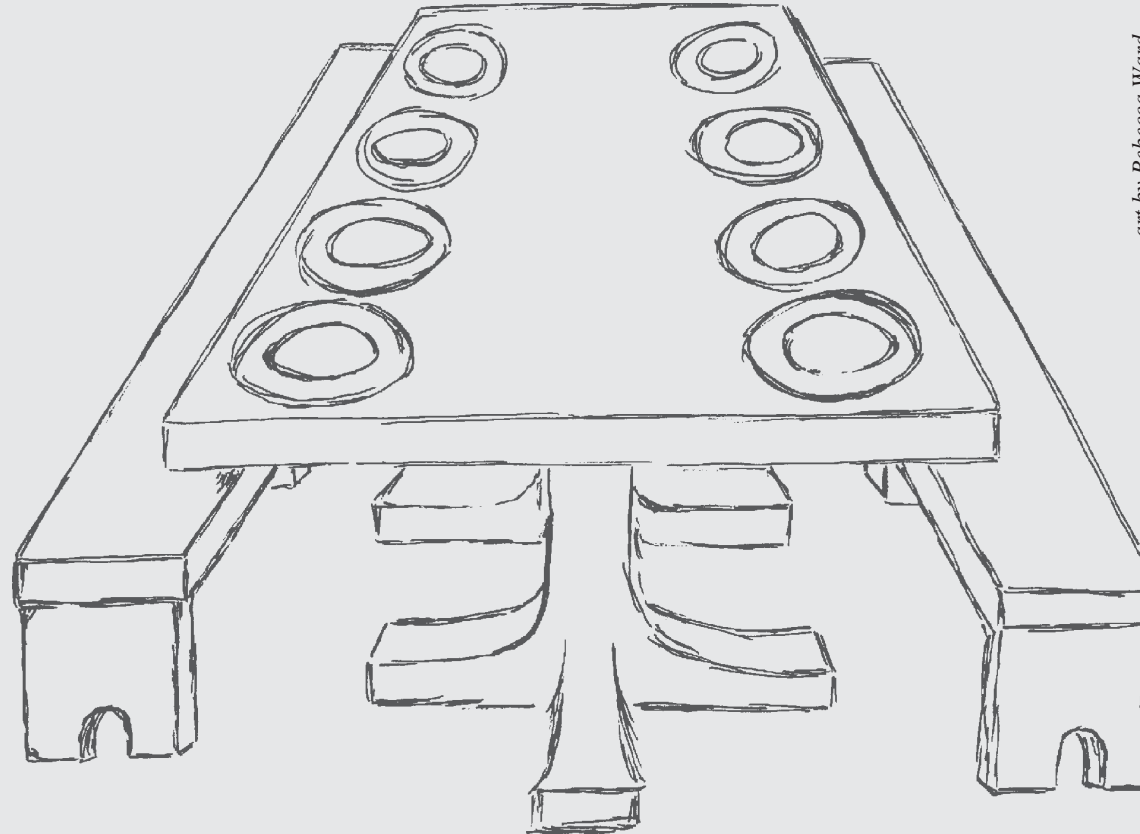
So let us pass the baskets of bread to one another and be filled with the Spirit of God.

Let us say to our neighbor: God wants you to have this bread!

from the liturgy used in the Agape Meal



JESUS SAID, "THE NEXT TIME YOU PUT ON A DINNER..."



art by Rebecca Ward

...don't just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You'll be—and experience—a blessing. They won't be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!—at the resurrection of God's people.

—Luke 14:12-14,
The Message



art by Rebecca Ward

Our God,

Make of our living
a habit of giving.
May the basic needs of others
Be a priority
in our culture of magnified personal wants.

And may we be uneasy
eating the Lord's supper
as long as there are those that hunger—
as long as there are
the least of these
whose needs are not yet met—
as long as Jesus is not fully present.

All this we pray in the name
of the one
whose voice disturbs us
from the very back of where we're
comfortable.
Amen.

—John Ballenger