

Liturgy for a Harvest Meal

by Katie Cook

Note: The worship leader will find instructions and ideas for this communion meal on page 9 of "A Hunger Beyond Food," the 2011 Sacred Seasons Hunger Emphasis packet.

Call to Worship

FIRST READER: This is what the Lord says, Bring the full tithes in the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house.

SECOND READER: Put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour down for you blessings beyond your wildest dreams.

FIRST READER: I will protect the produce of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not be barren.

SECOND READER: Then you will experience what it means to be a people of grace.

—adapted from Malachi 3:10-12

Procession

Congregation processes with communion elements, fruits of the harvest and groceries for local agencies.

Processional Hymn

"Praise God for the Harvest"

The Worshiping Church #373

Lyrics: Brian Wren

Music: Traditional Welsh Melody

Tune: ST. DENIO

Invocation

This should be given with members of the procession standing around the focal area with their gifts.

God of provision, come into our midst and open our hearts to your gifts. Speak to us through all of these leaders and listeners, and open our ears to your word. Open our hands, that we may share out of our abundance. Take these fruits of our harvest and multiply them, so that all of your children will be fed.

Participants go to their seats.

Meditation of Contemplation

To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthier child, a vegetable garden, or an improved social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 16:1-31

Reading from the Epistles

Galatians 6:7-10

Hymn

"Join Hearts and Voices"

A Singing Faith #52

Lyrics: Jane Parker Huber

Music: John Hatton

Tune: DUKE STREET

Readings from the Gospel

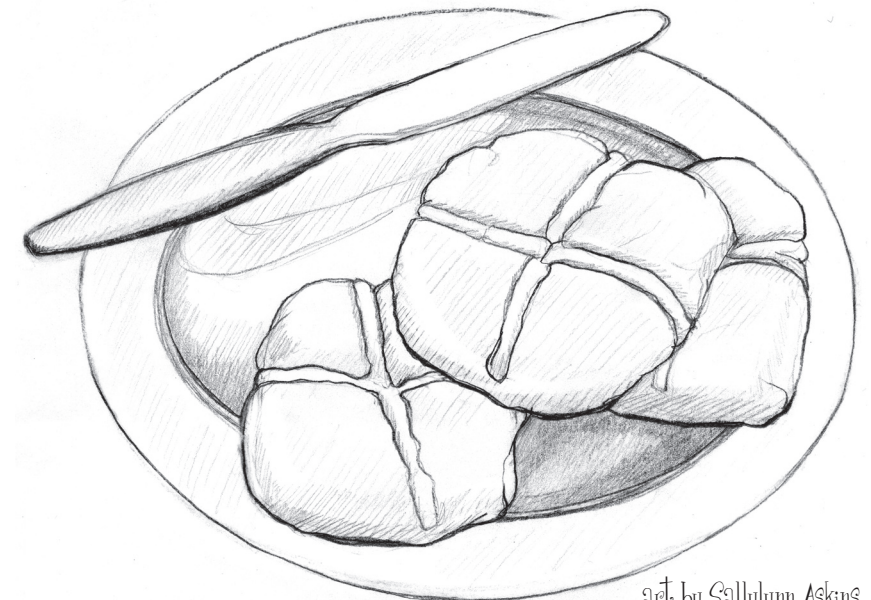
John 6:51-58

John 21:1-19

Communion Meditation

Just as God is worshiped when the hungry are fed and the

(continued on back)



art by Sallylynn Askins

thirsty given something to drink, so is God praised and glorified in this meal for which we gather as the Body of Christ. For it is in this meal that we proclaim, through the simplicity of bread and wine, that Christ is among us, filling us not only with food, but with hope and peace and joy. Therefore, let us draw near to the table of our Lord and to one another.

—Ashlee Wiest-Laird

The Bread

A representative from each table goes to the focal table.

CELEBRANT: On the night before his death, Jesus was with his followers at supper. He took the bread that was on the table and gave thanks for it. When he had done this, he broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take and eat.”

The Celebrant helps the table representatives to divide the bread. They return to their tables and distribute it.

CELEBRANT: After his death, and after he appeared to various of his followers, Jesus appeared to them one last time in Galilee. He caused them to catch many fish in the sea of Tiberius, and when he had made breakfast for them on the beach, he said, “Come and eat.”

The assembled worshippers eat the bread.

The Cup

A representative from each table goes to the focal table.

CELEBRANT: After his last supper with his disciples, Jesus took a cup of wine from the table; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you.” He took what was on the table, and gave it to them to drink.

The Celebrant helps the table representatives pour the wine or juice. They return to their tables and distribute it.

CELEBRANT: In drinking from this cup, we bind ourselves together in a common hope that we will be healed in our deepest hearts, and that we will be the instruments of healing in the world.

The assembled worshippers drink the cup.

CELEBRANT: In this Eucharist, we celebrate the generosity of our God, who opens the windows of heaven, and rains down bread upon us. O God, we give thanks to you, for the goodness and love we know in the provision you have made. Bless this bread to be the manna that sustains us. Bless this cup to be the drink of new life. Bless these elements to be a sacred covenant that nothing can sever. Help us to faithfully receive this food and drink. May it strengthen us to follow Christ and to become your manna for a hungry world.

Hymn

“Dear Lord, Give Bread (Señor, dé Pan)”

Banquet of Praise #136

Facts about Hunger

- Hunger is the world’s number-one health risk. It kills more people every year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. *World Food Programme (WFP)*
- One in seven people in the world will go to bed hungry tonight. *WFP*
- 925 million people do not have enough to eat, and 98 percent of them live in developing countries. *Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)*
- Women make up a little over half of the world’s population, but they account for over 60 percent of the world’s hungry. *United Nations Economic and Social Council*
- Sixty-five percent of the world’s hungry people live in only seven countries: India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia. *FAO*
- There are 583 million undernourished people in Asia, 236 million in sub-Saharan Africa, 51 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 15 million in the Near East and northern Africa. *WFP*

Lyrics: Spanish Table Grace

Music: Nancy J. Schweers, Gary P. Davison, 1960

Tune: SEÑOR, DÉ PAN

Benediction

O God of mercy and love, we pray that having eaten this meal of spiritual food, we would affirm our kinship with those who are hungry. We pray that we would be empowered to rise from this table, walk out into the world, transforming our worship here into worshipful deeds of mercy and compassion today and everyday. Grant us grace that it might be so. Amen.

And now, go from this place, continuing to worship God in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

—Ashlee Wiest-Laird

- Undernutrition contributes to 5 million deaths of children under the age of 5 each year in developing countries. *The United Nations Children’s Education Fund (UNICEF)*
- One out of four children—roughly 146 million—in developing countries is underweight. *UNICEF*
- More than 70 percent of the world’s underweight children (aged five or less) live in just 10 countries, with more than 50 percent located in South Asia alone. *UNICEF*
- Iron deficiency is the most prevalent form of malnutrition worldwide, affecting an estimated 2 billion people. Adding iron to the diets of people can improve national productivity levels by as much as 20 percent. *World Health Organisation (WHO)*
- Iodine deficiency is the greatest single cause of mental retardation and brain damage, affecting 1.9 billion people worldwide. It can easily be prevented by adding iodine to salt. *UN Standing Committee on Nutrition*
- It takes the World Food Programme 25 cents to feed a hungry schoolchild a cup of food with all the nutrition he or she needs for the whole day. *WFP*
- Fifty percent of all cultivated food in the world is grown by peasant farmers. *Bread for the World*