liturgy for an agape meal

by Katie Cook

Before the meal, place a loaf of bread and a cup of juice or wine on each table. When the time comes for communion, each table may want to choose a leader to break the bread.

Blessing of the Meal

LEADER: Welcome to this meal, in the name of Christ. We come to share in God’s love.

PEOPLE: We come to share our food and our lives.

LEADER: We come to break bread together, and to break ourselves open to each other.

PEOPLE: We come to express our faith and our thanks.

LEADER: May God bless this food and this fellowship.

PEOPLE: As we share our food, we give thanks for this abundance, and we remember those who do not have enough.

LEADER: May God give food to those who are hungry.

PEOPLE: May God give us a hunger for justice, and a determination to serve those who hunger for food.

The Meal

The Communion

LEADER: People of God, we have eaten our fill. We have quenched our thirst. We have shared our stories with each other.

PEOPLE: Now it is time to share bread as Jesus shared it with his friends.

LEADER: (Takes the nearest loaf and breaks it) Jesus took the bread that was on the table after their meal. He broke it and blessed it, saying, “This is my body that is given for you.” (Someone at each table breaks the loaf at that table.)

LEADER: Now it is time to share the cup as Jesus did.

LEADER: (Takes the nearest cup and raises it up.) That night he took a cup from the table, gave thanks for it, and said, “Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant.” (Someone at each table takes the cup.)

LEADER: Let us now pass the cup, in remembrance of the life that Jesus gave for us. (The leader at each table passes the cup, and each person holds the cup for the next, allowing him or her to dip the bread into the cup, saying, “Take this cup; it is the gift of Christ.” Each one then says, “We give thanks” and eats the bread.)

The Commission

LEADER: The scripture says that, as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the life and death of Christ until he comes.

PEOPLE: We have received the bread and the cup, the body and blood of Christ. We are filled with his love and life.

LEADER: As we proclaim the life and death of Christ, we also proclaim his teachings.

PEOPLE: May we always remember and follow his way.

LEADER: Jesus told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” (Someone from each table brings the fragments to a central table.)

Benediction

LEADER: Behold, the fragments of our feast. Our meal is ended, but God’s banquet continues as we go from this place.

PEOPLE: Let us take the banquet into the world and never give up until all people are fed.

LEADER: May the peace of Christ be upon you, and may you be channels of peace and justice.

ALL: Amen.

The art on the side panels is by Erin Kennedy Mayer. The art in the center panel is by Susan Daily.