

Who is my neighbor?

A hunger emphasis liturgy

by Katie Cook

art by Sally Lynn Askins



Processional hymn

“God of Justice, God of Mercy”

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1983

Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

Tune: HYFERDOL

A Singing Faith #63

Call to worship

ONE: God of all creation, earth, grain, water, yeast, sun, grapes and air,

MANY: *Gather us together like the ingredients of bread and wine.*

ONE: We are crushed under foot like grapes in a winepress.

MANY: *Let the Spirit of grace ferment in our church and relationships.*

ONE: Knead our lives together in this moment through pain and joy.

MANY: *Let your creative fire transform us into the Body of Christ.*

—Lucas Land

Invocation

Meditation of contemplation

Let us sit down soon to eat

with all those who haven’t eaten; let us spread great tablecloths, put salt in the lakes of the world, set up planetary bakeries, stables with strawberries in snow, and a plate like the moon itself from which we can all eat.

—Pablo Neruda, Chilean poet and Nobel Laureate

Hebrew scripture reading

Deuteronomy 10:12-19

Responsive word from the prophets

ONE: This is what God says: I don’t want all of your fancy worship.

MANY: *This is what I want from you: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, to cancel debts.*

ONE: This is what I want from you: to share your food with the hungry, invite the homeless poor into your homes, put clothes on people who are shivering, to take care of your own families.

MANY: *If you do this, your lives will be full of sunlight. Then, when you pray, I will answer. Then, when you call for help, I will be there.*

ONE: I want you to get rid of your unfair practices, quit blaming victims and quit gossiping about other people’s sins. I want you to be generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the people who need you.

MANY: *If you do this, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, where once there was shadow, there will be bright sunshine.*

—adapted from Isaiah 58:6-10 in

—The Message and the NRSV

Hymn

“Come Celebrate the Call of God”

Words: Brian Wren, 1989

Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1993

Tune: ALIDA’S TUNE

Chalice Hymnal #454

Epistle reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel reading

Luke 10:25-37

Drama

“What Am I Supposed to Do about Hunger?”

a dramatic project for children & youth

by Katie Cook

(see page 11 of the Hunger Emphasis Packet)

Sermon

“Go and Do Likewise: Hearing the Good Samaritan Story as Adults”

by Marsha Martie

(see page 8 of the Hunger Emphasis Packet)

Invitation to the table

We welcome all to this table, which is the table of our Lord. As we gather at the table, let us remember that the ones with whom we share are the daughters and sons of God, and so, too, are the people outside these walls who need our help.

The bread

The celebrant lifts the bread and says,

As we share this bread, we thank you, God, for our daily bread, for the food that delights and nourishes us and for the companionship that sustains us.

The celebrant breaks the bread and says,

On the night before his death, Jesus was at supper with his friends. He took bread from the table and blessed it, and gave thanks for it. Then he gave it to his friends, saying, “Take this and eat it, for it is my body.” As we take this bread, we remember that he also said, “Whenever you give bread to the least of my brothers and sisters, you have given it to me.”

The cup

The celebrant lifts the cup and says,

We thank, you, God for the cup that quenches

our thirst and for the Living Water with which you surprise and enrich and transform our lives.

The celebrant pours the cup and says,

On the night before his death, Jesus also took a cup of wine from the table. When he had given thanks, he gave it to his friends, and said, “Drink this, all of you.” In drinking from this cup, we remember that he also said, “Whenever you give something to my brothers and sisters to drink, you have also quenched my thirst.”

Communion blessing

Giving God, bless all who have gathered round this table. May we know the fullness of your presence at every meal and in all our sharing times. Amen.

Meditation of commitment

If you haven’t already played it, this would be a good place to play “A Little Bit of You” by Marsha Martie (see page 3 of the Hunger Emphasis packet).

Hymn

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

Words: Omer Westendorf, 1976

Music: Robert E. Kreutz, 1976

Tune: FINEST WHEAT

Chalice Hymnal #429

Benediction

May God bless each of us as we make our way from here, and as we continue our journey. In our times of need, may we find a table spread in the wilderness and companions on the road. In our times of plenty, may our eyes be open to the hungry one lost in the wilderness. God, give us the grace to share our plenty with him. In our times of plenty, may we see the one who needs our companionship, and may we have the courage to reach out our hands to her.

—Katie Cook is the Seeds of Hope editor.

How much do you know about hunger?

compiled by Natalia Alas

Test your hunger knowledge by taking the following quiz.

1. One in ___ Americans do not have access to enough food.
A. 5 B. 2 C. 6 D. 8
2. True or False: The lack of adequate nutrition affects a child's cognitive, physical and behavioral development.
A. True B. False
3. Approximately how much of the population in developing countries is undernourished?
A. 15 percent B. 20 percent C. 10 percent D. 5 percent
4. How many US dollars does it cost per day to provide a child with all of the vitamins and nutrients he or she needs to grow up healthy?
A. \$1.00 B. \$5.00 C. \$0.25 D. \$10.00
5. How many people in the world do not have enough to eat?
A. 50 million B. 100 million C. 500 million D. 870 million
6. What percentage of deaths in children under the age of 5 in developing countries is linked to undernutrition?
A. one-third B. one-half C. one-fourth D. one-eighth
7. 1,345 million people in developing countries live on \$ ___ per day or less.
A. \$0.40 B. \$1.25 C. \$1.00 D. \$0.75
8. True or False: A key cause of food insecurity in the United States is the lack of sufficient resources to cover the cost of food in addition to meeting other basic needs.
A. True B. False
9. How much do low-income households spend on food?
A. 18.5 percent B. 20 percent C. 16.4 percent D. 10 percent
10. One in ___ people will go to bed hungry tonight.
A. eight B. six C. ten D. five

—Natalie Alas, a native of Pearland, TX, is a Professional Writing student at Baylor University and a Seeds of Hope intern.