

# Setting the Table in Remembrance & Hope: A Liturgy

by Guilherme Almeida & Katie Cook

## Call to Worship

ONE: Holy Spirit, Creator, at the beginning you hovered over the waters; You breathe life into all creatures; without you every living creature dies and returns to nothingness, MANY: *Come into us, Holy Spirit.*

ONE: Holy Spirit, Comforter, by you we are born again as children of God; You make us living temples of your presence, you pray within us with prayers too deep for words, MANY: *Come into us, Holy Spirit.*

ONE: Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, you are light, you bring us light; You are goodness and the source of all goodness, MANY: *Come into us, Holy Spirit.*

ONE: Holy Spirit, Breath of life, you sanctify and breathe life into the whole body of the Church; You dwell in each one of its members, and will one day give new life to our mortal bodies, MANY: *Come into us, Holy Spirit.*

—From the Taizé Community near Cluny, France

## Meditation of Preparation

The element of a foretaste of things to come is the key dynamic of Christian ritual. One cannot understand the yearly reenactment of advent expectation, leading to the messianic birth, the Lenten preparation for the final passion and resurrection of Christ, and the feats of Christ's ascension into heaven and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit "in the last days," unless one understands that these are not simply remembrances of events completed in the past. Rather, they look back to experience which themselves point forward to that final time when the bondage of evil and mortality is lifted from humanity and from all creation and the fullness of God's reign is established.

—Rosemary Radford Ruethner, *Women-Church*

## Hymn of Praise

"Jesus Shall Reign"

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Psalm 72)

MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793 [DUKE STREET]  
*Celebrating Grace* No. 158 / CCLI Song No. 1510

## Pastoral Prayer

*Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures*  
Isaiah 25:6-8

## Song of Purpose

"I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table"

*Reading from the Psalms*  
Psalm 107:1-9

## Hymn of Assurance

"For Everyone Born"

*Reading from the Book of Revelation*  
Revelation 7:9-17

## Meditation of Preparation

The Lord's Supper is our celebration of hope for a world of bounty, and when we break bread together we proclaim that God's eternal peace is here.

One in the altar we are,  
one in the world we will be.

Spurring each other,

we live out the Kingdom here.

United in this bread and wine we will,  
joyfully, carry out God's calling.

Unsatisfied with this world's bondage,  
we will imagine a brighter new world.

—The above is an exhortation found in Brazilian liberation theology tradition, adapted by Guilherme Almeida.

## Song of Preparation

"Table of Plenty"

## Gospel Reading

Luke 14:15-24

## Sermon

### Invitation to the Table

Come to the table and see beyond what there is here to see. Know there is so much more than just small chunks of bread and sips of grape juice. Know that what is set before you today will fulfill and fill full your hunger and quench your thirst, or come to this table to know just how deeply hungry you are—to know how profoundly thirsty you are.

This table is a sign: Drink! You're thirsty even if you don't know it! Tell yourself this is more than just ritual. This is comfort and assurance. This is challenge to the status quo. Come because you're weird that way, knowing the world does not, cannot, satisfy.

Come to the table knowing that it's a prelude to a symphony into which all creation is waiting with bated breath to burst forth. Come to the table and see what you cannot afford that is here and now freely given.

—John Ballenger

## Hymn of Response

"Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

## Distribution of the Elements

Guilherme Almeida is a lecturer in Musical Theatre at Baylor University and is a member of the Seeds Council of Stewards. A native of Brazil, he has a strong background in liberation theology and has degrees in both music and ministry. Katie Cook is the Seeds of Hope editor. For a more detailed version of this liturgy, see page 5 of the 2016 Sacred Seasons Hunger Emphasis packet, "Setting the Table in Remembrance & Hope."



## Benediction

As we go from this place, let us remember what we have shared in this bread and this fruit of the vine. As we go from this place, let us listen carefully to the echoes of the elements we have shared today, resounding a meal shared long ago, reverberating 2,000 years of meals shared in communities of faith around the world, anticipating the fullness of the banquet to come. Amen.

—John Ballenger

# What Do You Know about Hunger in the World?

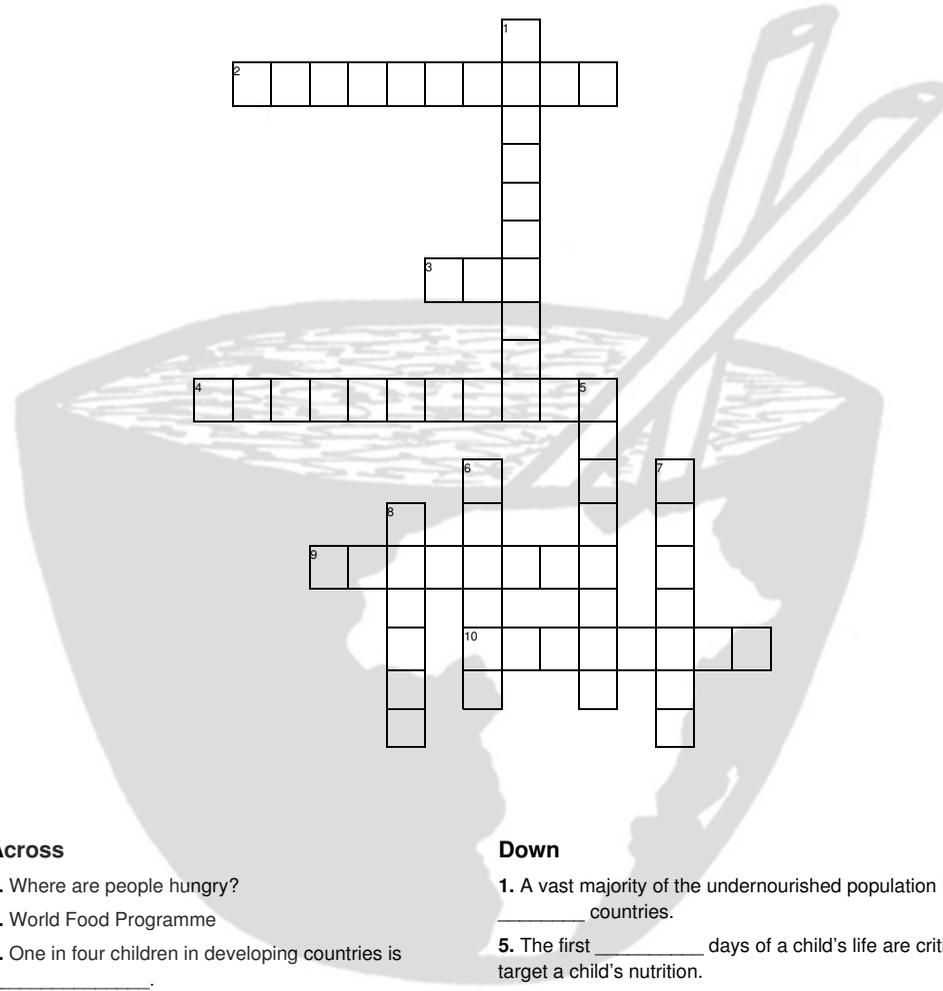
compiled by LeAnne Kerr

1. What country has the highest number of hungry people in the world?  
A. China B. India C. Venezuela D. Africa
2. As of 2013, what percentage of stunted children lived in Asia and Africa?  
A. 20 percent B. 30 percent C. 40 percent D. 50 percent
3. How much would it cost in US dollars to feed every hungry child in the world?  
A. \$2 billion B. \$4 million C. \$3.5 billion D. \$3.5 million
4. How many people are enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)?  
A. one in four B. one in seven C. one in nine D. one in five
5. What percentage of all the food in the US is thrown out each year?  
A. 40 percent B. 20 percent C. 60 percent D. 35 percent
6. Malnourishment in developing countries leads to one in six infants born with low birth weight. What other risks come with this?  
A. Blindness B. Mental retardation C. Learning disabilities  
D. All of these
7. How many millions of people suffer in chronic undernourishment in the world?  
A. 700 B. 795 C. 755 D. 730
8. In 2014, one child died every \_\_\_\_\_ seconds due to preventable causes related to hunger.  
A. 10 B. 20 C. 15 D. 25
9. Food \_\_\_\_\_ means having enough food to lead an active, healthy life.  
A. Desert B. Rescue C. Security D. Sovereignty
10. One in three people in developing countries are affected by what kind of deficiencies?  
A. Water B. Vitamin C. Mineral D. B & C

Answer Key: 1. B 2. D 3. C 4. B 5. A 6. D 7. B 8. A 9. C 10. D

## A Hunger Crossword

created by LeAnne Kerr



### Across

2. Where are people hungry?
3. World Food Programme
4. One in four children in developing countries is \_\_\_\_\_.
9. These establishments have resources like food pantries, community gardens, and outreach programs to help the homeless and hungry.
10. Before a child turns 2, malnutrition can cause \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

1. A vast majority of the undernourished population live in \_\_\_\_\_ countries.
5. The first \_\_\_\_\_ days of a child's life are critical to target a child's nutrition.
6. This is what many suffering from hunger do not have due to their physical well-being, geographical location, or financial standing.
7. 795 \_\_\_\_\_ - the number of people who do not have enough food to live a healthy, active life.
8. One in nine people suffer from \_\_\_\_\_.

1. developing 2. everywhere 3. WFP 4. underweight 5. thousand 6. access 7. million 8. hunger 9. churches 10. stunting

— LeAnne Kerr hails from Shreveport, LA. She is a Professional Writing student at Baylor University and a Seeds of Hope intern.