

5. Prayers: Feeding the Body of Christ

Approach

Feasting on the Word of God

Come and see what the Lord has done,
Taste and find that the Lord is good,
Come and hear God's truths retold,
Feel the touch of the Spirit within.
Enjoy the fragrance of God's being,
And know for yourself his grace.

Confession

As we come to share the Eucharist today, we are mindful that we have not held the sacrament, the remembrance of your death and resurrection, in due regard. We have taken the sacred feast for granted and we have come again unprepared in heart, mind, body and spirit. We have failed to invite others to join the feast that is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet and we have not pointed them to you, Jesus, the head of the celebration. We have forgotten that the Eucharist is a global, universal rejoicing. Disconnected from our neighbours through unjust political, economic and agricultural systems, we have often lost touch with the poor and the vulnerable.

Lord Jesus, we turn to you and seek your forgiveness. Restore us to a place at your table and renew a right spirit within us. By the power of the Holy Spirit we ask this. **Amen.**

Collect

In his letter to the Church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul gave a picture of the body of Christ, where all members are essential as each fulfils a different purpose. May we the church of Christ today so honour and value our gifts and skills that we might bring glory to God and uphold creation. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

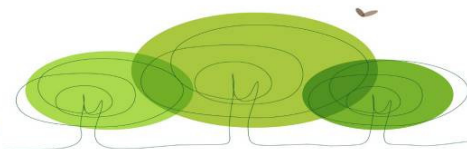
Intercession

We are the body of Christ at prayer. We pray today for those who are hungry and unable to feed their families, for places affected by climate change, for countries where crops fail due to war and famine. We pray for the work of agencies that seek to bring help and relief.

May we each have equal concern one for another.

Suffering or rejoicing, may we each do our part.

We are the body of Christ at prayer. We pray today for those whose working lives pay the real cost of cheap industrialised food. We pray for those who work to bring justice to trade and



agriculture.

May we each have equal concern one for another.

Suffering or rejoicing, may we each do our part.

We are the body of Christ at prayer. We pray today for the land, animals and wildlife on whom our lives depend. We pray for protection and celebration of biodiversity and different habitats. We pray for the organisations that seek to draw attention to their plight.

May we each have equal concern one for another.

Suffering or rejoicing, may we each do our part.

Amen.

Thanksgiving

(based on Isaiah 63:7)

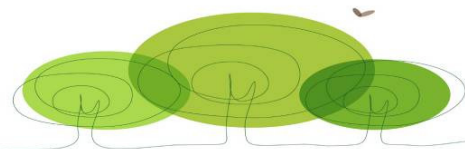
We will tell of the Lord's goodness,
The gift of sunshine that warms the seed,
The gift of rain that replenishes the land,
The gift of harvest once all is grown,
We will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
The deeds for which he is to be praised.

We will tell of the Lord's provision,
The gift of food that nourishes,
The gift of water to refresh us,
The gift of sharing that we might meet each other's needs,
We will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
The deeds for which he is to be praised.

We will tell of the Lord's bounty,
The gift of creation in all its beauty.
The gift of biodiversity in all its shapes and colours,
The gift of dependence that all species rely on one another,
We will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
The deeds for which he is to be praised.

We will tell of the Lord's mercy,
The gift of forgiveness despite our disobedience,
The gift of faithfulness despite our wandering,
The gift of fellowship to build each other up,
We will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
The deeds for which he is to be praised.

We will tell of the Lord's salvation,
The gift of his Son to redeem the world,



The gift of life that all might live,
The gift of hope to share across all ages,
We will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
The deeds for which he is to be praised.

We will tell of the Lord's sacrifice,
The gift of bread that all might live,
The gift of wine, his blood outpoured,
The gift of celebration that the whole world may rejoice,
We will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
The deeds for which he is to be praised.

Blessing

Jesus said, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work'. May we also be sent out as the body of Christ to fulfil the Lord's purposes here on earth, for the blessing of the whole of creation and for his future glory. **Amen.**

Blessing

(Matthew 3:1-17)

Baptising Spirit – send us out to be hope-bringers to the tired and the vulnerable.
Fire of the Spirit – send us out to be sparks that rekindle the blaze of your glory.
Fruitful Spirit – send us out like branches as your fruit-bearing people.
Gentle Spirit – send us out like doves as we confront humanity's insecurities and fears.
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest on us now and always. **Amen.**

