



October 5, 2008 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Come, for the Meal is Ready!

World Communion Liturgy

Invitation

Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast.
As we gather this morning,
we remember our sisters and brothers
from above and below the equator,
from the North and from Down Under,
from every time zone around the globe.
As today's sunlight inches across land and sea
Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family.
All are invited and all are welcome.
Come, for the meal is ready!

Prayer of Preparation

One: To God be the glory:
great things God has done!
To prepare ourselves to partake of this Holy Meal,
let us pray:

Healing God,
we come before you
broken, yet seeking wholeness,
isolated, yet seeking community,
overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity,
shamed, yet seeking grace:

All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

One: God of Justice,
we come before you
selfish, yet seeking a generous heart,
arrogant, yet seeking humility,
responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.

One: God of Peace,
we come before you
afraid, yet seeking assurance,
agitated, yet seeking serenity,
angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart:

All: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.

One: Knowing that through Christ
all things are made new,
we come to this communion table
to be recreated through the bread and cup, and
to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

**All: God, we submit ourselves
to renewal through you.
This we pray through Jesus the Christ,
our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

Preface & Thanksgiving

One: Loving and gracious God
who summons galaxies into being,
we give thanks and blessings to you.
We bless you for our world.
The diversity of our planet amazes us
from the prairies and pampas of the Americas
to the dusty deserts of Africa and Asia,
from the majestic mountains of Europe
to the vast outback of Australia.
We give you thanks
for the multiplicity of humanity
with our complexity of color and culture
yet called into oneness-of-being through Christ.
With many tongues, yet with one voice,
we honor you saying:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy....

One: Loving and gracious God
who surrounds creation with abundant love,
we give thanks and blessings to you.
We bless you for your love,
made known to us through Jesus,
which reassures and reconciles us
to you, to ourselves and to one another.
As Christ is our light to you,
may we be lights to others
illuminating the path toward communion
with you,
the Holy Spirit and
Jesus, our friend and brother. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Elements

One: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you
and with our neighbors near and far.

All: **Bless this bread, we pray.**

One: May this fruit of the vine remind us
of the inter-connectedness of people
around the world.

All: **Bless this cup, we pray.**

May this simple meal bring us into union with you,
your people and your world
united in the One Body of Christ.

Sharing the Elements

Bread: The bread of life, shared with you.

Cup: The cup of the New Covenant, shared with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(after communion)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

With thanksgiving,

let us celebrate our new life in Christ

giving thanks to God

our creator and sustainer:

Loving and gracious God,

thank you for this holy meal.

Thank you for Jesus and

his all-inclusive love for humanity.

Thank you for this day

which we worship and serve you.

Amen.

Come, for the Meal is Ready was written by Ana and Tod Gobledale, who have served Global Ministries as local ministers in both South Africa and Zimbabwe, and most recently in Australia at Churches of Christ Theological College near Melbourne. They are returning to local church ministry in the USA.



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