

FOOD

and the Faith of life.

Sustainable September 2011 | Worship Resources



Week One Exodus 12:1-14

Opening prayer

In a world yearning for justice,
where some have plenty
and others go hungry,
**come, Holy Spirit,
and teach us to share your gifts.**

On a planet under pressure
to care for the land
and to feed the people,
**come, Holy Spirit,
and give us wisdom for the future.**

To people scattered by sin,
needing forgiveness
and thirsty for belonging,
**come, Holy Spirit,
and help us to pray.**

Prayer for Food

For hands that plough and sow and reap,
We give you thanks O Lord.
For animals whose flesh we eat,
We give you thanks, O Lord.
For seed and root and plant and tree,
We give you thanks, O Lord
For transporters and retailers
We give you thanks, O Lord.

And as our tongues enjoy this food,
abundantly consuming,
we repent of harmful chemicals
and selfish over-farming.
We have not shared the gifts you give,
we have oppressed the poor.
Transform our hearts, renew The Land,
Your kingdom we implore!

Preserve the earth's integrity
Through Christ, bring generosity.
Amen.



Litany

God the Father,
have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,
have mercy on us.

For children who go to bed hungry at night,
and for the parents who cannot find food for them,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For communities hungry because of flood, fire or drought,
and for the governments who struggle to provide for them,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For farmers sowing seed and raising livestock to feed the world,
and for their care for the land that provides their livelihood,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For subsistence farmers vulnerable to climate changes,
and for cash-croppers vulnerable to market variations,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For plant and animal breeders, soil scientists and catchment managers,
and for the technologies that increase the food we can produce,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For careful use of pesticides and herbicides in intensive agriculture,
and for those who are committed to organic farming practices,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who raise, transport and slaughter animals for food,
and for the wellbeing and ethical treatment of livestock,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For affluent communities facing the diseases of excess consumption,
and for the poor facing malnutrition and deficiency diseases,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For soup kitchens, food banks and food aid agencies,
and for the donors, volunteers and staff who help to feed the hungry,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For remote communities in this country,
where fresh food is expensive and in short supply,
Lord, hear our prayer.



For policy-makers and planners in land use and food production,
and for community educators in diet and nutrition,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For cooks, chefs and food scientists,
and food service and hospitality workers in our community,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Give us thankful hearts for your generous providence
whenever we eat and drink and are satisfied.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Give us Christ's spirit of hospitality
to share our tables with the lonely and the outcast.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep us from carelessness, wastefulness and greed
when we shop for food, prepare it and eat it.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gather us around the table of your love,
where you feed us with the sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Give us grace to recognise the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Send us in the strength of this holy meal
to bear witness to your power and peace in a hungry world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring us, with all your saints, to the heavenly feast
where those who are hungry and thirsty for justice will be satisfied.

Lord, hear our prayer.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**



Confession and Absolution

God's hand is open, filling all living things with abundance,
but we have been greedy and hard of heart.

Let us confess our sins.

silence is kept

Hungry for God's forgiveness, we pray:

**Holy God, we ask you to forgive us
for the love we have not returned to you,
though you have so richly fed us.**

**Forgive us
for the neighbours we have failed to love,
though we are all guests together at your table.**

**Forgive us
for the food we have wasted
when we could have shared your plenty with people in need.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray,
and forgive us all our sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest says

The living God,
who is both just and generous,
forgive you all your sins
and make you messengers of justice and peace,
until all the hungry are filled with good things
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Blessing

The God of peace,
who gives food to every living creature,
give you your daily bread
and make you hungry and thirsty for justice. **Amen.**

The Lord Jesus Christ,
who feeds us with his own body and blood,
give you bread for your journey of mission
and bring you to the wedding banquet of heaven and earth. **Amen.**

The Spirit of wisdom,
who nourishes hearts and minds with saving truth,
give you joyful companions at her feast
and send you to feed the hungry and bring good news to the poor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God,
holy eternal Majesty,
holy incarnate Word,
holy abiding Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Week Two Romans 14:1-14

Opening prayer

In a world yearning for justice,
where some have plenty
and others go hungry,
**come, Holy Spirit,
and teach us to share your gifts.**

On a planet under pressure
to care for the land
and to feed the people,
**come, Holy Spirit,
and give us wisdom for the future.**

To people scattered by sin,
needing forgiveness
and thirsty for belonging,
**come, Holy Spirit,
and help us to pray.**

Prayer for Food

Loved Lord of growth and nurture,
forgive our plundering of the beauty of the earth,
forgive us for the hunger of many living things
from our pillage of your Creation.
Reconcile our wastefulness through
working with you to renew our planet.
From our inequity lead us
to your loving equality.
From the exclusiveness of our desires
bring us awareness of the needfulness of other living things.
From our depleting exploitation guide us
to your nurturing abundance.
That we may again rejoice in
the fruitful beauty of our world. **Amen.**

A Litany based on the reading from Romans

Welcome those who are weak in faith,
but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions;
for God has welcomed them.

Some believe in eating anything,
while some eat only vegetables;
for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Those who eat must not despise those who abstain,
and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat;
for God has welcomed them.



Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another?
It is before their own lord that they stand or fall;
and they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another,
while others judge all days to be alike.
Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord.
Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord,
since they give thanks to God;
while those who abstain,
abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God;
for God has welcomed them.

We do not live to ourselves,
and we do not die to ourselves.
If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord;
so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ died and lived again;
so that Christ might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister?
Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?
For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”
Each of us will be accountable to God.

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another;
**we resolve instead never to put a stumbling block
or hindrance in the way of another.**

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus
that nothing is unclean in itself;
but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Who are we to pass judgment on another?
It is before our Lord that we stand or fall;
and we will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make us stand.



Confession and Absolution

God's hand is open, filling all living things with abundance,
but we have been greedy and hard of heart.

Let us confess our sins.

silence is kept

Hungry for God's forgiveness, we pray:

**Holy God, we ask you to forgive us
for the love we have not returned to you,
though you have so richly fed us.**

**Forgive us
for the neighbours we have failed to love,
though we are all guests together at your table.**

**Forgive us
for the food we have wasted
when we could have shared your plenty with people in need.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray,
and forgive us all our sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest says

The living God,
who is both just and generous,
forgive you all your sins
and make you messengers of justice and peace,
until all the hungry are filled with good things
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

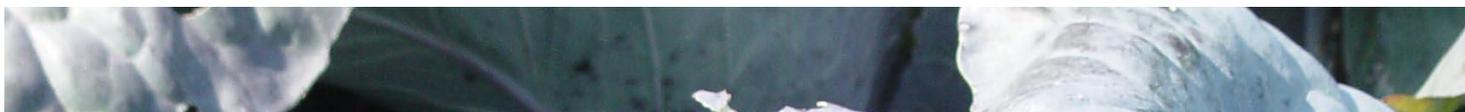
Closing Blessing

The God of peace,
who gives food to every living creature,
give you your daily bread
and make you hungry and thirsty for justice. **Amen.**

The Lord Jesus Christ,
who feeds us with his own body and blood,
give you bread for your journey of mission
and bring you to the wedding banquet of heaven and earth. **Amen.**

The Spirit of wisdom,
who nourishes hearts and minds with saving truth,
give you joyful companions at her feast
and send you to feed the hungry and bring good news to the poor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God,
holy eternal Majesty,
holy incarnate Word,
holy abiding Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Week Three Exodus 16:2-15

Opening prayer

In a world yearning for justice,
where some have plenty
and others go hungry,
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and teach us to share your gifts.**

On a planet under pressure
to care for the land
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To people scattered by sin,
needing forgiveness
and thirsty for belonging,
**come, Holy Spirit,
and help us to pray.**

Litany

Creator God, forgive us when we complain against you, whilst never giving thanks when our plates are full saying:

If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread;

We thank you for providing our needs each and every day, for raining your bread from heaven upon us,
Keep us mindful of the needs of others, so that we only take enough food for each day.

When we go shopping, Lord you test us, with supermarket shelves filled with more food that we can ever eat.

Prompt us by your Spirit to gather enough for ourselves, and something to feed the stranger who comes to our door

Each evening as we lie down to rest with our stomachs full with meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning may we call to mind

It is the Lord who brought us out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning we shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard our prayers

Draw near to the Lord, for he always hears your prayers and your complaints, and do not worry and strive after what you will eat.

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



Confession and Absolution

God's hand is open, filling all living things with abundance,
but we have been greedy and hard of heart.

Let us confess our sins.

silence is kept

Hungry for God's forgiveness, we pray:

**Holy God, we ask you to forgive us
for the love we have not returned to you,
though you have so richly fed us.**

**Forgive us
for the neighbours we have failed to love,
though we are all guests together at your table.**

**Forgive us
for the food we have wasted
when we could have shared your plenty with people in need.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray,
and forgive us all our sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest says

The living God,
who is both just and generous,
forgive you all your sins
and make you messengers of justice and peace,
until all the hungry are filled with good things
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Blessing

The God of peace,
who gives food to every living creature,
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and make you hungry and thirsty for justice. **Amen.**

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who nourishes hearts and minds with saving truth,
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Week Four Psalm 78

Opening prayer

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and help us to pray.**

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Lord with “God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**”

Lord we are a stiff necked race.
We take for granted the bounty and blessing you pour down upon us.
We grasp for what we can get. We hoard. We over-consume.
We look out for ‘Me’ and ‘Mine’ to the exclusion of others.
We are a stiff necked human race and forget you from whom all blessings flow.
So now Holy One, we return to you with our prayers saying: “God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**”

We thank you for your precious Creation,
And ask for forgiveness for the ways in which we have harmed it.
We pray for a constant new awareness. Of your goodness and generosity.
That there is enough for everyone. Enough room for every creature.
A world of splendour and beauty on offer through your grace and blessing.
And with that insight the grace to work for change.
Help us with our blind spots, bring us to a better understanding and so lead us into the life you would have for every creature.
God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the bounty you bestow and the remarkable complexity of our world, and ask forgiveness for the damage we have inflicted as a species.
We pray for the victims of unsustainable processes and structures.
Communities where there is not enough to sustain life.
Cultures under threat of extinction.
Ecosystems at risk through the impact of human activity.
Holy One, help us to find a balance. To better understand the ways of your world and to tread lightly. Help us to look to the future and to tend to your world.
God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**



We thank you for those who lead us towards a sustainable way of being.
For those wise in the ways of the environment, in social and economic structures, in celebrating human life and diversity.

We pray as your Church that we might also be a prophetic voice and model of sustainability. Reform us. Help us to live out our knowledge of your grace and power in discernable ways.

Enable us to speak with wisdom on complex matters with others.

And in all things look to you the Giver and Sustainer of Life.

God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we are a stiff necked race and have placed ourselves in danger.

We have ignored our place in this creation you have made and damaged it and ourselves. We live in unsustainable ways and see the need for change.

Send us wise and inspiring guides through these perilous times.

Give us grace to cope with what lies before us.

Remind us of your presence as with the Hebrews in the wasteland,

and give us courage with hearts for action to take our part in your redemptive plan.

Help us through your Spirit of wisdom and love to make greater efforts towards sustainable living. As individuals, households and communities.

That we might cherish your creation and embrace the future with joy.

God of Grace we place ourselves and our world in your hands. Lead us to safety we pray. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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holy incarnate Word,
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Thank you to all the people who contributed to this document.

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