

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" Worship Resources

Table Prayers

Blessed are you, O Lord our God. Like a mother hen shielding her chicks, you nurture and protect us. We praise you for your care: Blessed be God forever! Gather all the hungry and homeless, O loving God, under the warmth of your wings, and so give life to the world, that your name may be praised now and ever. Amen.¹

O God, like a loving father you have provided a fatted calf for our table. We praise you for the plentiful food you prepare. Save us from the lot of the prodigal son, wasting your goods foolishly. Save us from the lot of the elder son, hoarding your gifts selfishly. All the earth's stores are yours: We praise and bless your bounty, O God. Amen.²

The eyes of all look to you and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.³

God, bless this food we are about to receive. Give bread to those who hunger, and hunger for justice to us who have bread. Amen. (*Nicaragua*)

Lord Christ, we ask you to spread our table with your mercy. And may you bless with your gentle hands the good things you have given us. We know that whatever we have comes from your lavish heart, for all that is good comes from you. And...having received from your hands, let us give with equally generous hands to those who are poor, breaking bread and sharing our bread with them. For you have told us that whatever we give to the poor, we give to you. (*Alcuin of York, abbot of Tours 735-804*)⁴

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let your gifts to us be blessed.
Blessed be God who is our Bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed.
Give us, Lord, our daily bread. Let all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed.
O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever. Amen.

Give comfort, O Lord, to all who are torn from their homes and their loved ones by war, famine or the cruelty of their neighbors; grant that we who dwell secure in this insecure world may be generous in caring for our displaced sisters and brothers. (*Somalia*)

Bless, O Lord, this food for thy use, and make us ever mindful of the wants and needs of others. Amen.

For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
For friends in a world where many walk alone,
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,
We give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

Lord, let us hunger enough that we not forget the world's hunger. Lord, let us hunger enough that we may have bread to share. Lord, let us hunger enough to we may long for the Bread of Heaven. Lord, let us hunger enough that we may be filled. But, O Lord, let us not hunger so much that we seek after that which is not bread, nor try to live by bread alone. Amen.⁵

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow human beings throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen. (*Mother Theresa of Calcutta*)⁶

^{1,2} From "Blessing and Beseeking: Prayers on Food and Hunger" (LCA, 1985-1987) by Gail Ramshaw.

³ From Luther's "Small Catechism".

⁴ From the Harper-Collins Book of Prayers, p. 22.

⁵ Reprinted from "Banquet of Praise" (Bread for the World, 1990).

⁶ From "Book of Common Worship" (Westminster/John Knox Press).

Brief Order for Lenten Worship

(Service outline for use by worship leader[s] without participants' bulletins)

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God is our light and our hope, our refuge and our strength. In this season of desert pilgrimage, let us remember the prophet's vision: If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your need in parched places, and make your bones strong. [Isaiah 58:10a, 11a]

HYMN

Week One:	"Take My Life, That I May Be" or "Christ, Be Our Light"	ELW 583 or 685; LBW 406 ELW 715
Two:	"For the Fruit of All Creation" or "Now It Is Evening"	ELW 679; WOV 760; LBW 563 ELW 572
Three:	"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" or "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"	ELW 712; LBW 423 ELW 358; WOV 666
Four:	"O God of Mercy, God of Light" or "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"	ELW 714; LBW 425 ELW 708; WOV 765
Five:	"Praise and Thanksgiving" or "We Come to the Hungry Feast"	ELW 689; LBW 409 ELW 479; WOV 766

PRAYER²

Let us pray. Eternal God, whose image we bear: You have created us to live by more than bread alone. Nourish us through your Word and release us from the selfishness born of fear. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

READING(S) FROM SCRIPTURE

Week One:	Exodus 16:2-8, 13-26 (optional second text: Luke 12:13 – 20)
Two:	Matthew 25:31-40 (optional: Isaiah 58:1-10)
Three:	Luke 9:10 – 17 (optional: Luke 22:14-23)
Four:	Mark 12:28 – 34 (optional: Acts 2:42 – 47)
Five:	Luke 4:16 – 21 (optional: Proverbs 31:8-9)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Children's Message (*see resource*)
and/or Drama/Dialogue Sermon (*see resource*)
and/or Homily (*not provided*)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Prayers may be offered for people who are hungry,
for people who lack clean water,
for people living without adequate shelter,
for refugees,
for people who advocate for the powerless,
for orphans, children, and widows,
for people living with HIV/AIDS, and people working to find cures,
for your local food pantry,
for teachers,
for peacemakers,
for the healing of the world.*
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

Week One:	"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" or "When Pain of the World Surrounds Us"	ELW 674; WOV 754 ELW 704
Two:	"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" or "In Christ There Is No East or West"	ELW 538 ELW 650; LBW 359
Three:	"To Be Your Presence" or "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"	ELW 546 ELW 678; LBW 408
Four:	"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises" or "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind"	ELW 535; WOV 722 ELW 400
Five:	"We Are Called" or "God of Grace and God of Glory"	ELW 720 ELW 705; LBW 415

BLESSING³

Merciful God, you ask us to cleanse our hearts, to loose the bonds of oppression, and to repair the ancient ruins. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, that we might pour ourselves out for the hungry and offer refreshment to those who thirst. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!

^{1,2,3} From "Pour Yourself Out for the Hungry: A Resource for Worship," ©1993 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Lenten Worship: Week One

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

In the presence of a God whose word has called the earth and the stars into being,

We stand in awe.

In the presence of a God whose arms have held children,

We stand in trust.

In the presence of a God whose breath has stirred within us and caused our hearts to thirst for justice,

We stand in need.

Before you, Giver of Life, we come in faith, in search of love and justice and wholeness.

Be with us; hear us, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

"Take My Life, That I May Be"
or "Christ, Be Our Light"

ELW 583 or 685; LBW 406
ELW 715

PRAYER²

Let us pray. Eternal God, whose image we bear: You have created us to live by more than bread alone. Nourish us through your Word and release us from the selfishness born of fear. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

READING(S) FROM SCRIPTURE

Exodus 16:2-8, 13-26 (NRSV)

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "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; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all

providing for those in their own tents.”¹⁷ The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less.¹⁸ But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.¹⁹ And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over until morning.”²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul. And Moses was angry with them.²¹ Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

²²On the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, two omers apiece. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses,²³ he said to them, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD; bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning.’”²⁴ So they put it aside until morning, as Moses commanded them; and it did not become foul, and there were no worms in it.²⁵ Moses said, “Eat it today, for today is a sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.²⁶ Six days you shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is a sabbath, there will be none.”

(Optional) Luke 12:13 - 20 (NRSV) ¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.”¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?”¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly.¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

Children’s Message
and/or Drama/Dialogue Sermon
and/or Homily

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION³

Let us pray. Holy God, whose loving kindness is everlasting: Lift the burden of all who are weary from the search for food and refresh those who are parched from thirst. Lord, in mercy,
As you sent manna in days of old, grant living bread in our wilderness.

O God, source of all consolation: Comfort with the sure sense of your presence all who feel forsaken, whose hope is dried up. Lord, in mercy,

As you sent manna in days of old, grant living bread in our wilderness.

Lord Jesus, who cried out in thirst upon the cross: open our ears to all cries of affliction, and through us provide food and drink. Lord, in mercy,

As you sent manna in days of old, grant living bread in our wilderness.

God our creator, who makes our bones strong: through our prayers and gifts heal the ravages of poverty and disease, that those now suffering may one day leap for joy. Lord, in mercy,

As you sent manna in days of old, grant living bread in our wilderness.

Merciful God, you ask us to cleanse our hearts, to loose the bonds of oppression, and to repair the ancient ruins. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, that we might pour ourselves out for the hungry and offer refreshment to those who thirst. In the name of Jesus we pray;

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" ELW 674; WOV 754
or "When Pain of the World Surrounds Us" ELW 704

BLESSING⁴

Go forth in peace, and be of good courage; hold fast that which is good, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the God who fills the hungry with good things fill us all with Christ-like love and with a consuming hunger for justice in our land and in our world.

Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!

^{1,4} Reprinted from "Banquet of Praise" (Bread for the World, 1990).

^{2,3} From "Pour Yourself Out for the Hungry: A Resource for Worship," ©1993 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Lenten Worship: Week Two

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rejoice people of God! In Christ there is hope and peace.

But how can we rejoice? The world is full of hunger, agony, conflict, pain.

Rejoice people of God! The victory is won in Christ.

But how? Our brothers and sisters cry out for justice, for love, for food.

Rejoice people of God! For in God there is justice and love. God is the source of everything.

But how? The problems are big and the injustice overwhelming.

Rejoice people of God! For in you Christ lives and all things are possible.

Rejoice! We are God's tools of justice and love. Through God we can work for peace and feed one another.

HYMN

"For the Fruit of All Creation"
or "Now It Is Evening"

ELW 679; WOV 760; LBW 563
ELW 572

PRAYER *(Roman rite)*

Let us pray. All-powerful Father, God of goodness, you provide for all your creation. Give us an effective love for our brothers and sisters who suffer from lack of food. Help us do all we can to relieve their hunger, that they may serve you with carefree hearts. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-40 (NRSV)

[Jesus said,]³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

and/or Drama/Dialogue Sermon

and/or Homily

RESPONSIVE READING (*Isaiah 58:6-11*)

This, says Yahweh, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke;

Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke;

Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;

Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall be healed quickly;

Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of Yahweh shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and Yahweh will answer. You shall cry for help, and the Creator will say: Here I am!

If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech;

If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted;

Then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday;

The Creator will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

ELW 538

or "In Christ There Is No East or West"

ELW 650; LBW 359

BLESSING² (*Paraphrase of the prayer of St. Francis*)

Lord, make us instruments of Thy grace:

Where there is oppression, let us sow justice;

Where dignity has been diminished, let us be compassionate;

Where distrust has been bred, let us be gentle;

Where there is desperation, let us bring hope;

Where there is apathy, let us become activists;

Where there has been loss, let us listen in patience.

O gracious God, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to desire for ourselves as to speak up for the needy.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in feeding the hungry that we are invited to your Heavenly banquet; it is as instruments of grace that we return to You.

Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!

^{1,2} Reprinted from "Banquet of Praise" (Bread for the World, 1990).

Lenten Worship: Week Three

CONFESSION¹

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose.

I gave them for a moment then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.

I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life that you might work through me.

I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so,

only in those places where it is safe to do so,

and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Forgive me. Renew me. And send me out. Amen. (*South Africa*)

HYMN

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"
or "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"

ELW 712; LBW 423

ELW 358; WOV 666

PRAYER²

Let us pray. Living God, open our hearts, that we may feel the breath of your spirit. Unclench our hands, that we may reach out to one another. Open our lips, that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life. Unclog our ears, to hear your agony in our humanity. Open our eyes that we may see Christ in friend and stranger. Breathe your Spirit into us and touch our lives with the life of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

READING(S) FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:10 - 17 (NRSV)

¹⁰On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹When the crowds found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured.

¹²The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place." ¹³But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵They did so and made them all sit down. ¹⁶And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed

and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

(Optional) Luke 22:14-23 (NRSV)

¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²²For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" ²³Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Children's Message
and/or Drama/Dialogue Sermon
and/or Homily

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION³

Let us pray for all our fellow men, women, and children whose pain and misery come to us every day in the newspapers, on television, over the Internet, and face to face. The congregation's response to each petition will be: "We pray to the Lord."

For the millions who are starving to death,

We pray to the Lord.

For those who are without adequate shelter...**(We pray to the Lord.)**

For those who lack clothing...**(We pray...)**

For those whose human rights are ignored...

For all who suffer from illness...

For refugees who have had to flee from their lands...

For all who are chronically hungry...

For greater action on our part to feed the hungry...

For all who have to live with injustice...

For those who have seldom known peace...

For all who have lost hope....

For those who harden their hearts against the poor....

For all who work to eliminate world hunger...

For the unity of the human family,

We pray to the Lord.

May your mercy be on all of us, Lord, as we search for better ways to heal and serve your people. Give us insight, sensitivity, creativity, strength, and courage as we seek together ways to end hunger in the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

"To Be Your Presence"

ELW 546

or "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

ELW 678; LBW 408

BLESSING⁴

As the earth keeps turning, hurtling through space, and night falls and day breaks from land to land, let us remember people—waking, sleeping, being born and dying—one world, one humanity. Let us go from here in peace. Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!

¹ From "What Do You Know About Hunger?" (Church World Service).

^{2,3,4} Reprinted from "Banquet of Praise" (Bread for the World, 1990).

Lenten Worship: Week Four

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

God, show kindness and bless us,
And make your face to smile on us!
For then the earth will acknowledge your ways,
And all nations know your power to save.
Let the nations praise you, O God,
Let all the nations praise you.
Let the nations shout and sing for joy,
Since you bring true justice to the world.
The soil has given its harvest,
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God bless us, and let God be feared,
To the very ends of the earth! Amen.

HYMN

"O God of Mercy, God of Light" ELW 714; LBW 425
or "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" ELW 708; WOV 765

PRAYER²

Let us pray. God of the hungry, Shelter of the homeless, we are in need of your mercy. We ask your blessing on children everywhere who are in danger today. Bless all who are hungry and homeless, all who suffer from injustice. Provide them with the food they need; shelter them in the warmth of your love, and safeguard them from the evil that rages around them. Turn our eyes and hearts to their needs. Give us courage to act for their good. We ask this, relying on your compassion and confident of your love. Amen.

READING(S) FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28 - 34 (NRSV)

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

(Optional) Acts 2:42 - 47 (NRSV)

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds[£] to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home[£] and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Children's Message
and/or Drama/Dialogue Sermon
and/or Homily

RESPONSIVE READING³

The Lord calls us to be servants. Rejoice!

Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it. (*Proverbs 22:9*)

If you oppress poor people, you insult the God who made them; but kindness shown to the poor is an act of worship. (*Proverbs 14:31*)

Defend the rights of the poor and the orphans; be fair to the needy and the helpless. (*Ps. 82:3*)

A good person knows the rights of the poor, but wicked people cannot understand such things. (*Proverbs 28:7*)

Treat foreigners as you would your own, and love them as you love yourselves. (*Lev. 19:34a*)

Do not follow the majority when they do wrong, or when they give testimony that perverts justice. (*Exodus 23:2*)

Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless.

Speak for them and be a righteous judge. Protect the rights of the poor and needy.

(*Proverbs 31:8-9*)

Lord, help us love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. We rejoice that we are able to love, because you first loved us; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises" ELW 535; WOV 722

or "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" ELW 400

BLESSING⁴

May the truth which makes us free, the hope that never dies, and the love which casts out fear, visit us and redeem us, till the day-spring breaks and the shadows feel away. Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!

^{1, 2, 3, 4} Reprinted from "Banquet of Praise" (Bread for the World, 1990).

Lenten Worship: Week Five

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Sisters and brothers, Arise! Arise and lift your hearts!

Arise and lift your eyes! Arise and lift your voices!

The living God, the living, moving Spirit of God
has called us together...in witness, in celebration, in struggle.

Reach out toward each other. Our God reaches out towards us! Let us worship God!

Women: We give thanks, God of wonder, for the marvel of creation that surrounds us.

Men: For all the wonders of life you reveal to us.

Women: May our lives and our world be reawakened and reformed by the power of your
grace.

Men: Let us see your glory, your justice and your peace.

All: **You have given us your world and placed the future in our hands. Nourish us, O
God; inspire and empower us to make your Reign manifest in our day. Amen.**

HYMN

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

ELW 689; LBW 409

or "We Come to the Hungry Feast"

ELW 479; WOV 766

PRAYER² (*Marian Wright Edelman*)

Let us pray. O God, grant us Your vision in our time. Help us to write it so large that even a runner can see it. Make it so compelling that even a cynic will pause, so convincing that a skeptic will risk trying to bring hope to others, and so inspiring that the committed will stand courageously in faith, leaving the results to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:16 - 21 (NRSV)

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Children's Message
and/or Drama/Dialogue Sermon
and/or Homily

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION³

Men: When, O Lord, will we learn to value the life of every single one of your children?
Women: When, O Lord, will we be willing and able to forgive others as you have forgiven us again and again?
Men: When, O Lord, will we be faithful in speaking your word with courage, clarity, and humility?
Women: When, O Lord, will we actively work for justice for all rather than limiting our ministries to works of charity?
Men: When, O Lord, will we turn from self centered living to your way of compassionate living for others?
Women: When, O Lord, will we truly see you in the eyes of the homeless, the hungry, the lonely, the ill, and the prisoner?
Men: When, O Lord, will we turn from the ways of violence and oppression to your ways of peace and reconciliation?
Women: When, O Lord, will we open our hearts, minds, and souls to receive the transforming power of your love?
Men: When, O Lord, will we have the courage to say "yes" to your call to "Come and follow me"?
Women: When, O Lord?
All: **Let it be now! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

"We Are Called" ELW 720
or "God of Grace and God of Glory" ELW 705; LBW 415

BLESSING⁴

Go into the world in peace!
And take peace to a world that desperately needs it.
Go into the world in faith!
Trusting God to lead you, trusting people to receive you.
Go into the world with hope!
With God's presence before you and human dreams to carry you.
Go into the world with love!
Serving with those in whom Christ lives, and laboring for those for whom Christ died.
Go in peace, faith, hope and love!
Thanks be to God!

May Almighty God grant us the grace to persevere in all that we have undertaken, that we may be good and faithful stewards over the trust God has given us, even unto the end. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!

^{1,3,4} Reprinted from "Banquet of Praise" (Bread for the World, 1990).

² From "What Do You Know About Hunger?" (Church World Service).