



Whose Table Is This?

a liturgy

by Katie Cook

Music: Roland Hugh Prichard, 1855
Tune: HYFERDOL 87 87 D
A Singing Faith #63

Epistle Reading
Romans 12:1-21

Gospel Reading
Luke 14:1-14

Sermon
"Whose Table Is This"
by Lanny Peters
(see page 4 of Sacred Seasons
2006 Hunger Emphasis packet)

Communion Meditation
How can people hunger for God,
if they don't have food to eat?
How can they feast on God's Word,
or search for truths unseen?

"Be warm and be filled" we say,
"Be hungry no more and go on your way"
Dare we forget that Christ's blood was spilled
for love, not for words like "be warm and be
filled."

How can we claim to love God
and not share with those in need?
How can we say we know Christ
and reject Him in the least?

For love, Christ became broken Bread;
And just for love His blood was shed.
So let us not say "Be warm—be filled"
Unless we are willing to be broken and
spilled.
—Michele Perry

Invitation to the Table
ONE: Come, all you who hunger
and thirst for justice,
all you who are weighed
down by life,
MANY: Come and sit together at
the table of the Lord
ONE: Come, all you who are
oppressed, and all you who cry for
the oppressed
MANY: Come and sit together at
the table of the Lord.

Hymn for Coming to the Table
"We Gather Round the Table Now"

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1982
Tune: DUNDEE
Scottish Psalter 1615
A Singing Faith #41

Closing Hymn
"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"
Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
Tune: DUKE STREET LM
John Hatton, d. 1793
A Singing Faith #68

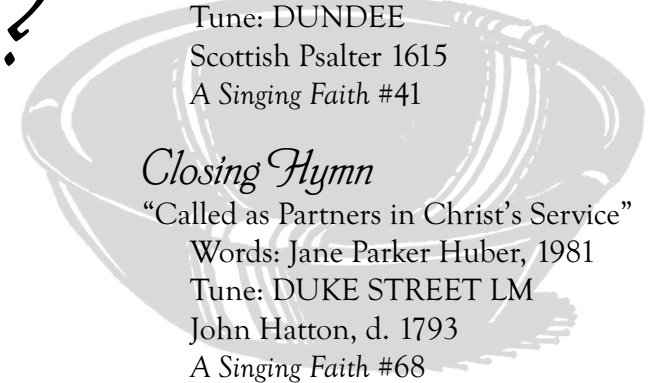
Benediction
God bless to us our bread.
Give bread to all who are hungry.
And hunger for justice to all who are fed.
God bless to us our bread.
(a table blessing shared by five-year-old Kate
Polaski
of Charlotte, North Carolina)

Call to Worship
"The Banquet Table of Love"
a reading for youth by Michele Perry
(see back of place mat)

Invocation

Reading from Hebrew Scriptures
Deuteronomy 10:12-22

Hymn
"God of Justice, God of Mercy"
Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1983



The Banquet Table

an interpretive reading for youth

Note: This reading can be done for the congregation in worship or simply among the youth as an interpretive exercise. It can be done with or without pantomime, but it would be more effective with pantomime (or dance, if your youth tend toward that kind of interpretation) If you choose to use pantomime, you can decide to use as many players as you like, or as many as you have. You could ask your players to dress up according to the roles they play, or you could ask them all to wear the same color. They might enjoy setting up a banquet table and festooning it with place settings, confetti, and flowers. Brainstorm with them and get them to come up with interpretive actions for each reading. Some of them could dress in fancy clothing, and some in rags. Or the same group could play both the original guests and the substitute guests. Encourage them to be creative.

FIRST READER: A certain Man was preparing a great feast.
He invited the many to come and eat,
to come and eat and drink His cup to be...

SECOND READER: At the banquet table of Love,
At the feast of Forgiveness
Where Mercy serves and Truth lives
and Hope is found.
At the meal of Righteousness,
Grace abounds.

FIRST READER: The servants called the many to come and eat.
Excuses were made. One had a new field.
One had a new wife. All too busy to come and
be His guests...

THIRD READER: At the banquet table of Love,
At the feast of Forgiveness
Where Mercy serves and Truth lives
and Hope is found.
At the meal of Righteousness,
Grace abounds.

FIRST READER: The Master said, "Since they did not come
when I called,
Go and gather the poor and lame,
the broken and shamed to come and eat
and they will be guests..."

FOURTH READER: At the banquet table of Love,
At the feast of Forgiveness
Where Mercy serves and Truth lives
and Hope is found.
At the meal of Righteousness,
Grace abounds.

SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH READERS: Yes, at the meal of Righteousness,
Grace abounds.

This reading was adapted from a poem by Michele Perry.