PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
You pardon all that truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have been hard-hearted and tight-fisted toward our neighbors in need.
We have not brought the homeless into our houses.
We have not fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and visited the captive.
We have not moved to change the structures that bind and oppress.
Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
Forgive us our sins and help us to live in your light.
May we turn our festivals into celebrations of your justice;
May we share our soup and bread with open hearts and hands;
May our light break forth and our healing spring up quickly;
All to your Glory, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  

God of mercy,
forgive us when our hearts become calloused to the poor.
Forgive us for averting our eyes, closing our ears
and ignoring those who need our help.
Forgive us when we forget the stranger,
refuse to feed the hungry,
or neglect the poor child.
Put within us Your spirit of compassion
so we might meet the needs of the poor.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen. 

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1 Reprinted from Souper Bowl of Caring: Printed Materials – Prayers
2 Reprinted from the Society of St. Andrew website: http://www.endhunger.org
God of feasting,
the sign you give us of your resurrection life
is one of a banquet
where the wine does not run out.
And because we believe this tells us something about who you are,
we ask for your forgiveness.

When we eat exactly what we want,
when we want it,
because we can,
‘because we’re worth it’,
or because we’ve had a bad day.

When we throw almost half our food away,
bored of eating the same thing two days in a row,
forgetting those for whom eating anything for two days in a row is a luxury.

When we forget that all humanity is made in your image,
and we repay you by creating a God in our own image,
which suits us when we’re powerful and affluent.

When we break bread together,
talk earnestly of being part of the body of Christ,
and fail to share bread even with those in our own backyard.

God of feasting,
who turns water into wine
and promises a world where none will go hungry,
please use our penitence
to work another miracle now.³

³ Reprinted from IF Campaign Worship Resources
CALLS TO WORSHIP

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, 
whose hope is in the Lord their God. 
When the Israelites hungered in the desert, God gave them bread from heaven,  
and for their thirst God brought water out of the rock. 
Arise and cry out! Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord. 
We lift our hands to God in prayer for the lives of all in need. 
We gather together in worship this day as a people longing to be fed, 
so that we may go out to feed the hungry, work for justice 
and be good stewards of the gifts we have received.  

God has created us in God’s image, calling us good. 
And so we give thanks. 
While remaining fully divine, God became fully human 
and knows what it means to means to hunger. 
And so we raise our voices. 
God has gathered us on this day to advocate for a world without hunger. 
And so we cry for justice. 
We gather in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 
Amen.  

From the farthest reaches of our world we hear the call to come and worship. 
We come from the global south, from the lands of the North; 
we come from East and West to sit in community with each other. 
We come as strangers, pilgrims on our way to God’s holy mountain. 
We come as those who are hungry, as those who are fed. 
We come as those who are wanting and as those who are filled in abundance. 
We come as friends, co-laborers in the fields of justice, 
working for the common good of God’s people. 
We know we are friends because we give of ourselves to each other, 
as we seek the common good in the one another and 
seek to meet the needs of all we meet along the way.  

4 Reprinted from Bread for the World Sunday Tool Kit, 2008  
6 Reprinted from Service of World Hunger, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), available for download at:  
PRAYERS

Let us pray for those who hunger in this land:
whose only kitchen is a soup kitchen,
whose only food is what others don’t want,
whose diet depends on luck, not planning. (Silence)
Lord, feed your people,
using our skills and conscience,
and eradicate from our politics and private lives
the apathy to hunger that comes from overeating.

Let us pray for the hungry and the fed.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for the hungry in other lands,
where economies burdened by debt
cannot respond to human need,
or where fields are farmed, for our benefit,
by low-waged workers courted by starvation. (Silence)
Lord, feed your people,
even if rulers must cancel debt
and shareholders lose profit,
or diners restrict their choice
in order that all may be nourished.

Let us pray for the hungry and the fed.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for the hungry for justice,
who document inequalities,
who demonstrate against tyranny,
distinguish between need and greed,
and are sometimes misrepresented or persecuted in the process. (Silence)
May their labour not be in vain
and may we be counted in their number.

Let us pray for the hungry and the fed.
Lord, have mercy.

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Lord Jesus,
You came that all might have life in abundance.
When you fed hungry people, everyone ate and had enough.

We know that there is enough food for everyone:
If we don’t look the other way.
If we give the poorest people the power to feed themselves.
If we use land for food not fuel.
If we stop poor farmers losing their land.
If taxes are paid where they are due.

So, Lord Jesus,
Direct our attention to see beyond our own needs.
Strengthen the hungry poor and their rights.
Preserve and protect the land that brings forth food.
And contend with us for justice.  

Faithful God, who has given us favor and grace to accomplish your will,
**We thank you and we praise you!**
Lord, you see the millions of people who go hungry every day.
Use us to secure a lasting means of adequate and sustainable food supply for all people.
**You delight in justice and you provide for all creation.**
Let your wisdom guide our nation’s leaders and your truth uphold them.
**Faithful God, hear our prayer.**
Fill their hearts and ours with compassion for hungry people.
**We and our leaders will bring justice to those entangled in poverty.**
Empower our actions on their behalf, so that our voices are magnified.
**Faithful God, hear our prayer.**
We will trust your goodness. We will rely on your faithfulness.
A strong rock is our God. We will not be discouraged. Amen. 

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8 Reprinted from *IF Campaign Worship Resources*
9 Reprinted from *Bread for the World Sunday Reflection Resource, 2009*
Open our eyes, Lord, that we might see the needs of others.
Open our hands, Lord, that we might share your abundance with our hungry brothers and sisters.
Open our hearts, Lord, that we might truly love as you have loved us.
Teach us, Lord, to bless others as you have so richly blessed us.
In your son’s precious name, we pray,
Amen.¹⁰

In peace, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy.
Let us pray for those who are hungry.
Lord, have mercy.
Let us pray for those who are full.
Lord, have mercy.
Let us pray for those whose voices are strong.
Lord, have mercy.
Let us pray for those whose voices have been silenced.
Lord, have mercy.
Let us pray for all those who gather on this day, in this place, and across the globe, hungry and full, speaking and silent.
That, together, we may raise our voices against hunger and injustice.
Amen.¹¹

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week One: Isaiah 26:1-19; Psalm 9:1-9; Acts 2:37-47
Week Two: Isaiah 27:2-9; Psalm 14; Luke 6:43-45
Week Four: Isaiah 28:14-17; Psalm 117; Luke 16:1-13

¹⁰ Reprinted from Liturgy for the United Methodist Church Hunger Ministry Weekend to Change the World
RESPONSIVE READINGS

We rejoice in the abundance of your creation,
the lavish generosity of the water flowing in dry places,
the green plants that spring up out of the ground for food.
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
We rejoice in the gift of your son, Jesus, whom you anointed to bring good news to the poor,
release to the captives, and sight to the blind.
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
We rejoice in the coming of your Holy Spirit, who guides us, inspires us,
and will not let us see rest while there is hunger in your world.
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
We have hope today because of your promises that hunger and thirst will be no more,
and that your banquet table has room for all.
We look to the day when all will be fed.
We have hope today because Jesus taught us a new way to love and serve one another.
We look to the day when all will be fed.
We have hope today because of those whose faithful persistence has delivered change.
We look to the day when all will be fed.
Gracious God, who called the prophets to act in your name,
and equipped them to deliver your message of justice,
may we be your hands and feet on earth.
Gracious God, whose spirit inspires your people in every generation
to live out the Gospel in our own time,
may we be your hands and feet on earth.
Today we rejoice. We hope. We act.
And we dedicate ourselves and everything we do to you, God of all.
Amen.¹²

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, [says our God,]
and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
I will put my spirit within you.¹³

¹² Reprinted from Bread for the World Sunday Reflection Resource, 2009
¹³ Ezekiel 36:25-27a, NRSV
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
   and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
   and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
   and sustain in me a willing spirit.\textsuperscript{14}

Is not this the fast that I choose, [says the LORD]:
   to loose the bonds of injustice,
   to undo the thongs of the yoke,
   to let the oppressed go free,
   and to break every yoke?
\textbf{Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,}
   and bring the homeless poor into your house;
\textbf{when you see the naked, to cover them,}
   and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
   and your healing shall spring up quickly;
   your vindicator shall go before you,
   the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
\textbf{Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;}
   you shall cry for help, and he will say, \textit{Here I am.}
If you remove the yoke from among you,
   the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
   if you offer your food to the hungry
   and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
\textbf{then your light shall rise in the darkness}
   \textbf{and your gloom be like the noonday.}
The LORD will guide you continually,
   and satisfy your needs in parched places,
   and make your bones strong;
\textbf{and you shall be like a watered garden,}
   \textbf{like a spring of water,}
   \textbf{whose waters never fail.}\textsuperscript{15}

\textsuperscript{14} \textit{Psalm 51:10-12, NRSV}
\textsuperscript{15} \textit{Isaiah 58:6-11, NRSV}
I was hungry and you gave me food.

Let us act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.

I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

Let us act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Let us act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.

I was naked and you clothed me.

Let us act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.

I was ill and you comforted me.

Let us act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.

God, true light and source of all Light,

may we recognize you in

oppressed people,

poor people,

homeless people,

hungry people.

May we be open to your Spirit

that we may be a means of healing, strength, and

peace for all your children.

We ask this through Jesus, your son and our brother! Amen.16

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.17
BLESSINGS

May the blessing of God, Creator of heaven and Earth, 
rest upon you and upon all that God has made;
May the Risen Christ Jesus 
transform your life and your vision, 
so that you may live in reconciliation with all things; and
May the power of God’s Holy Spirit 
move over this whole Earth, 
like the breath of Spring, 
to renew the Earth and all its people, 
so that all creation may join together 
in praise to God’s holy name!
Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 
bless you now and forever.
Amen.¹⁸

A Hebrew Blessing

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Eternal King, 
Who feeds the whole world with your goodness, 
With grace, with loving kindness, and with tender mercy. 
You give food to all flesh, 
For your loving kindness endures forever. 
Through your great goodness, food has never failed us. 
O may it not fail us forever, for your name's sake, 
Since you nourish and sustain all living things, 
And do good to all, 
And provide food for all your creatures 
Whom you have created. 
Blessed are You, O Lord, who gives food to all.¹⁹

¹⁸ From Living Earth: Creation Waits with Eager Longing by Kim Winchell
¹⁹ Reprinted from Bread for the Preacher, October 2010
May the God of love, who loves us freely, 
strengthens us in our love for others; 
May Jesus Christ, who is the true bread from heaven, 
grants us grace to speak out for those who have no voice; 
May the Spirit, who dwells in us, 
empowers us to go out into the world to work for change, 
bringing God’s justice and hope to all.  

Open my eyes that they may see 
The deepest needs of people; 
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry; 
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing; 
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers; 
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked; 
Give me the care that strengthens the sick; 
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free. 
In sharing our anxieties and our love, 
Our poverty and our prosperity, 
We partake of your divine presence. 

Go forth thirsting to drink from God’s cup. 
Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters. 
See the invisible members of our communities. 
Feel deeply, the Spirit of God moving powerfully 
in every part of life, and in every human being. 
Walk with those who struggle and falter, 
knowing that God is walking with each of us as well. 
Audaciously proclaim that God’s good news is for all people. 
Advocate with conviction for change that will make a difference 
in the lives of vulnerable people. 
Be transformed by God’s abundant love 
as it is reflected in vulnerable people. 
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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21 By Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe; *With All God’s People*, World Council of Churches (1989); *Bread for the Preacher*, September 2010
22 From *Justice Ministries*, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, July 2011.
SUGGESTED HYMNS

ELW 185-188 (WOV 732) “Create in Me a Clean Heart”
ELW 712 (LBW 423) “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”
ELW 469 “By Your Hand You Feed Your People”
ELW 512 (WOV 713) “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”
ELW 523 “Let Us Go Now to the Banquet”
ELW 648 “Beloved, God’s Chosen”
ELW 676 (LBW 403) “Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”
ELW 679 (WOV 760, LBW 563) “For the Fruit of All Creation”
ELW 689 (LBW 409) “Praise and Thanksgiving”
ELW 704 “When Pain of the World Surrounds Us”
ELW 707 (LBW 424) “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”
ELW 710 “Let Streams of Living Justice”
ELW 712 (LBW 423) “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”
ELW 714 (LBW 425) “O God of Mercy, God of Light”
ELW 715 “Christ, Be Our Light”
ELW 716 (LBW 419) “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”
ELW 720 “We Are Called”
ELW 725 “When the Poor Ones”
ELW 729 (LBW 433) “The Church of Christ, in Every Age”
ELW 793 (WOV 776) “Be Thou My Vision”
ELW 801 “Change My Heart, O God”

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

ELW 479 (WOV 766) “We Come to the Hungry Feast”
ELW 484 (WOV 711) “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”
ELW 535 (WOV 722) “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

For information on licensing these hymns for printing in the service bulletin, contact copyright@augsburgfortress.org.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A complete “Service of World Hunger”, including a “Suggested Liturgy for Celebration of the Lord’s Supper”, created by seminary students in conjunction with Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary’s “Leadership in the Connectional Church” course at the national headquarters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Louisville, KY, is available for free download here: http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/hunger/pdf/world_hunger_service.pdf

Resources for Lenten worship that were compiled for a previous collection of hunger resources by members of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, may be found here: http://www.uss-elca.org/for-congregations/world-hunger/2011-world-hunger-lenten-series

For another kind of worship service, see Holden Prayer Around the Cross, especially the liturgies entitled “A Heart of Flesh” and “Hunger for God”. The book, in addition to providing a number of liturgical orders, describes in detail how to prepare and lead a meditative service of worship with silence, song, and a time of personal prayer around a large cross placed in the center of the worship space. An accompanying resource, Singing Our Prayer, provides songs for meditative singing. Both are available from Augsburg Fortress. To order, go to: http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8470/Holden-Prayer-Around-the-Cross-Handbook-to-the-Liturgy?c=285662

(The Rev. Beth Ann Lechtenberger Stone, editor of this resource, serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA.)