



A FRANCISCAN AGAPE FEAST FOR USE AT HOME

Because of the suspension of regular services at Church, the sharing of a common Eucharistic celebration is not possible at this time. This liturgy is specifically developed by the Franciscan Order for those who wish to share a “common table.” St. Francis himself used to bless and break bread and share it with his brothers. This practice is ancient, going back to the hospitality our Father Abraham showed to his visitors. While not the full celebration of the Eucharist, there is a relationship, in much the same way that blessing with Holy Water is a reminder of our Baptism.

Use this booklet to have a small service in your own home, with those who live with you or alone. Prepare by putting some bread and wine, water or juice on a table. Light a candle if you have one and if you have a cross put that on the table too. Have a Bible and/or reading sheet from Church.

(The Agape Feast liturgy is adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book).

WELCOME

We come to serve One God, who calls us to unity as the family of God. Wherever we are, even when apart, we are one people, followers of Jesus, united in Him.

CALL TO THE FEAST

Call: Out of darkness came light;

Response **and the power of God was revealed**

Call: in the running wave and the flowing air,

Response: **in the quiet earth and the shining stars.**

Call: Out of the dust came life;

Response **and the image of God was revealed**

Call: in the human face and the gentle heart,

Response: **in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul**

Call: Out of justice came freedom;

Response: **and the wisdom of God was revealed**

Call: in the need to grow and the will to love,

Response: **in the chance to know and the power to choose.**

Call: And God looked at the creation,

Response: **and behold, it was very good.**

SCRIPTURE Read a Psalm. You can pick up weekly reading sheets from Church.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Leader I will keep on thanking God
With constant words of prayer.
I will glory in the living God:
The humble will hear and be glad.

Let us pray (The response to each sentence is ***We praise you***)

Living God, our loving parent; you cherish your creation.

With earth, air, water, fire: in our element as your children.

With our lips, with our lives, in all our diversity, each one made in your image.

Because, in Jesus, you came to share our human lives, our sorrow and joy.

Because your Spirit is at work today: encouraging, enabling, surprising us.

Poor as we are, you give us hope: Salt of the earth, you give us meaning and purpose.

Together Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Read a passage from the Gospels either from the weekly reading sheet or of your choice. You may want to read Luke 22:14-20, Mark 14:22-25 or Matthew 26:26-29

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? (Mark 6:50)

Leader: Giving God, you blessed us with saltiness,

All: **But we became bland.**

Leader: You trusted us with your Word,

All: **but we did not keep it.**

Leader: You lit a flame in our midst,

All: **but we hid it under formality,
smothered it with our fears.**

Leader: God, in your mercy:

All: **Forgive us.**

(silence)

Leader: Forgiving God, we believe that you have called us

All: **to be salt and light;**

Leader: that you offer us time and space and strength

All: **to begin again.**

(silence)

Leader: Giving and forgiving God,

All: **We thank you.**

Leader: Have salt in yourself and be at peace with one another.

PASSING THE PEACE

OFFER PEACE TO ONE ANOTHER - "PEACE AND ALL GOOD TO YOU"

GIVING THANKS FOR THE WEEK

People are invited to share with each other something that happened during the week that you want to give thanks for.

The response is "Generous God, we thank you."

INTRODUCTION TO SHARING THE FEAST

Reader: We are all invited to the common table to share in an Agape Feast. At this table we come as brothers and sisters in the Holy Family of God. Taste and see that God is good.

The bread and the wine are passed to one another. Each person serving the individual next to him or her.

PRAYER

(at the conclusion of each one drinking and eating)

Leader: As we share this bread, as we pour out this water, we thank you, God, for our daily bread for the food which delights and nourishes us and for the companionship that sustains us.

We thank you, too, for wine (or “drink”) to quench our thirst and for the Living Water with which you surprise and enrich and transform our lives.

We give thanks for this feast at which all Christians can share, a foretaste of the Holy Realm.
Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Leader: God bless each of us as we travel on.

In our times of need

may we find a table spread in the wilderness and companions on the road,
and until, we meet again may God hold us in the palm of his hand.

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

All: Amen.

