

# Our Daily Bread – Celebrating God's Abundance

## LWF Sunday 2009

July 2009

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

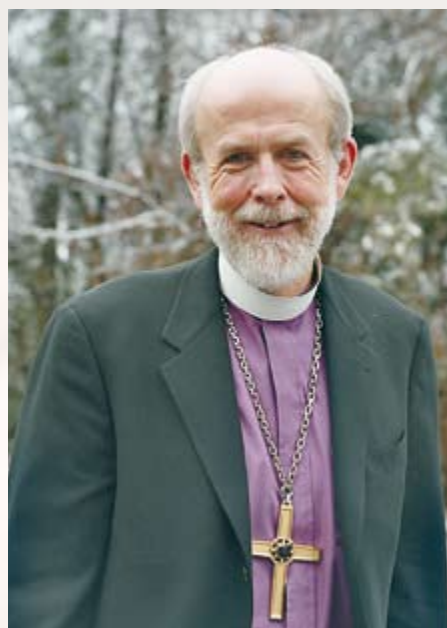
This worship resource has emerged out of a North American context. Much like the rest of the world, we have been deeply affected by the global recession. As of the end of April 2009, statistics showed that the United States of America alone had lost more than 600,000 jobs in each of the previous five months. Many economists think that by the end of 2009, one in ten people in the USA will be unemployed. Some analysts predict that as a result, the number of US citizens living in poverty by the end of the recession will approach 50 million, nearly one-sixth of the total US population (curiously matching the estimate of one in six people living in poverty globally).

The recent financial turmoil has introduced new uncertainties. Up until the last few months, general financial security provided a sense of stability and predictability. In this position of power and privilege, and profound abundance that we were living in, it is easy to fail to see the signs that we are still a part of a broken and hurt world.

Now, however, the harsh realities of life are hitting close to home, even in the home. We realize more fully that the world's groaning and longings are our own. Although we may be just beginning to feel the fear and hunger from the economic downturn, those who are poorest have already felt these realities. Indeed, as the economy continues to falter, many of the most vulnerable will continue to bear the brunt of the downturn. These are uncertain times that hurt those who are the poorest most of all. So we wait on God, who has acted in history and continues to bring us to realization of full redemption.

In this context, what then does it mean to gather around the table and celebrate God's abundance?

Bishop Mark S. Hanson  
LWF President



*Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson*  
© LWF/H. Putsman

## Prayer, Lament, and Praise

### Invocation

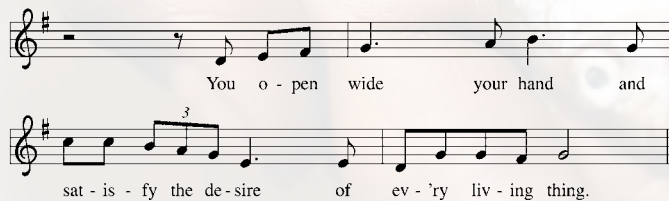
*The time of prayer, lament, and praise may be introduced with these or similar words:*

In times of uncertainty, we turn in on ourselves, holding onto fleeting earthly security while turning away from the safe embrace of our eternal God. Our hands clench tightly closed and we fail to receive that which God provides: grace, love, security, and abundant life. Let us turn toward God, opening our hands to reveal our human vulnerability, resting in God's protection and life, and allowing ourselves to be filled with the abundance of God's grace.

*Encourage the assembly to make fists with their hands, clenching tightly to begin this time of lament, prayer and praise, gradually opening their hands to the end.*

I am one.  
One heart beats within my one body.  
I know the pain of hunger in my heart,  
my stomach, my soul.  
When I am afraid, I turn in and focus on me.  
I seek security in temporal things that do not satisfy my deep hunger for freedom and life.

Gracious God,



Psalm 145:16  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

We are one,  
Assembled by God for worship in this  
time and place.

Our hearts and voices mingle with the  
stories of those we have come to know.

When we are hungry and afraid, we turn  
toward familiar places, where we know love.

But our familiarity may close us off to  
the one who stands on the outside.

We fail to hear the stranger who cries out  
for justice, healing, and food.

Open our hands to give and to receive in  
this place.

Merciful God,

*You open wide. . .*

We are one,  
Gathered together as a global community.  
Our communities join together in a com-  
mon mission.

When one of us lives in fear and insecur-  
ity, we all suffer.

Yet we do not always heed the call of the  
community beyond our borders.

We get tangled in difference rather than  
united in faith.

Help us to reach toward one another with  
the hope and courage you provide.

Gracious God,

*You open wide. . .*

We are one,  
Baptized in Christ Jesus,  
there is no longer slave and free,  
no longer male and female,  
no longer Jew nor Greek.

We are one in Christ Jesus: one heart,  
one mind, one body.

In that one body, we share our fear, our  
faith, our suffering and our hope.

In that one body, we share your abundant  
gifts that bless and sustain our lives.

With open hands, we release our sinful-  
ness and anxiety

to receive your abundant grace.

With open hands, we release the gifts you give.

We are free to share our dependence on  
your love,

Through Christ our Lord, now and forever.

**AMEN.**

## Presentation: What We Receive and Share

---

**Offertory Response**  
**Bendice, Señor, nuestro pan**  
 (Agape 9)

---

### Eucharistic Prayer

---

One: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our praise and thanks.**

Truly it is right and good to glorify you, at all times and in all places, to offer our thanksgiving, O Holy God, our inviting and renewing Host. Through your living Word, you made all things and breathe into them life to share, reflect and celebrate your glory.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the bread for the world, who prepared this feast for all, announcing the good news to the poor. His grace reveals to us the way of the cross, transforming us to see one another in your image and to serve with a joyful heart until he comes again. And so, with the angels and all the saints, we proclaim and sing your glory:

**Sanctus**  
**You are holy (Agape 16)**

---

O God, servant of all, be present in our midst. Send your life-giving Spirit so we may follow your light into the upper room, where you served a common bread, sign of your gracious gifts of hospitality, redemption and love for all. We are gathered around this meal of bread: formed by the rain, sunshine and fertile soil from seeds to grains; shaped into dough by strong hands; and baked in the flames to fill our hunger.

After they had given thanks that night in Jerusalem, Jesus broke bread and gave it to his friends saying, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. When you do this, remember me."

And he took the cup, and after they had given thanks, Jesus said, "Take and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, poured

out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. When you do this, remember me."

Jesus served his disciples with ordinary bread, preparing them to receive and enjoy an extraordinary gift, his unconditional love.

Today, we will taste many different kinds of bread, each one a gift with its own story from the people gathered together at this table as a reminder of Jesus' gift.

### Tortillas (Latin America)

---

Tortillas, from Central America, symbolize the courage and resilience of Latino peoples amid systematic exclusion, instability and unwelcoming neighbors. May this bread teach us to struggle for a just distribution of wealth and power and remind us that our true identity and joy are not tied up with prosperity in isolation but in relationships reflecting who God is.

### Rice Cakes (Asia)

---

Rice cakes, from Asia, symbolize the gifts of diversity and unity of Asians, who live amid religious and ethnic pluralism. May this bread teach us to accept and celebrate diversity beyond tolerance and always to reach out to others and overcome all the barriers among people.

### Rye Bread (Europe)

---

Rye bread, the staple bread of the laboring class in Eastern Europe, symbolizes the persistence and hopefulness of all who are unemployed, whose wages are low, are discriminated against by employers, or children and women who are forced to work. May this bread teach us to work for the common good and for the integrity of all people.

### Pita Bread (Middle East)

---

Pita bread is a gift of the people of the Middle East, who continue to hold others in hospitality and dream of peace in spite of greed, suffering and violence. May this bread teach us to welcome and care for strangers and become friends instead of enemies.

### Ugali (Africa)

Ugali, a staple food in many African countries, reminds us that unwavering faith and joyful passion for life abounds among Africans, even in the face of pandemic diseases, abject poverty and militarization. May this bread teach us to raise our hands and voices in gratitude that knows no bounds, and strengthen us in the fight against poverty and life-threatening diseases.

### Brown Bread (New England, USA)

Brown bread, shaped from molasses, corn and rye in a recipe that the Pilgrims received from their Native

American neighbors, symbolizes the willingness to remain open to the gifts of others. May this bread teach us to be God's guests in the world, remembering that Christ's taking the risk of being a guest in this world made us God's people, who will eat this bread in anticipation of the coming of God's reign, that feast of all feasts, to which all are invited as friends.

**ALL: Welcoming God, receive us as your guest to this mysterious yet revealing feast!**

We eat this bread in celebration of the light that transforms the way we see each other and heals broken humanity and creation.

**ALL: Healing God, fill us with gifts that last: justice, peace and abundance for all.**

Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life. I am the living bread that comes down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread shall never die." Their eyes were opened in the breaking of the bread. Let us approach the bread before us that our eyes might be opened and we might recognize Jesus, the Bread of and for life, and that we might truly see one another, in the breaking and sharing of the bread.

**ALL: Transforming God, stir us up to create a new humanity and a new community!**

## Conclusion

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all honor and glory is yours, inviting and loving God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

(invite to pray in the language they learned it)

### Jesus, Lamb of God (Agape 37)

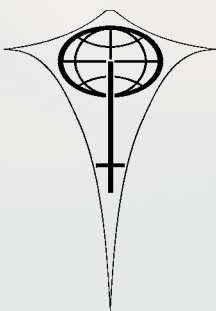
### Prayer after Communion

One: Let us pray.

**ALL: O God, you gathered us here today, hungry but now filled with these sacramental gifts. We also receive from each other gifts through the experiences of just sharing and belonging. In your mercy, strengthen us to offer ourselves as bread of hope for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prepared by:

*Rev. Teresita C. Valeriano, LWF Regional Officer for North America, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America staff Anne Basye, David Creech and Rev. Jennifer Ollikaine*



Published and distributed by:  
The Lutheran World Federation  
150, route de Ferney  
P.O. Box 2100  
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Tel. +41/22-791 61 11  
Fax +41/22-791 66 30  
E-mail: info@lutheranworld.org  
www.lutheranworld.org