

We Go Out To Live Compassionately

Thank you, God, for this meal,
and for the way it feeds our souls,
changes our hearts,
and unites us with you.

*We go now to live
as followers of Christ,
as people of compassion,
as those who seek to serve and heal the world.*

And now may God's presence, God's love, and God's favour
go with us, and remain with us always.
Amen.



A Liturgy of Compassion

We Gather And Offer Praise

God hears the cry of the needy,
and does not wait for us to call
before coming to our aid;

*While we were still lost in our brokenness and sin,
God came to us
lived among us
died our death
and rose to lead us into life.*

And so we come to worship,
to offer God our devotion and love
our thanksgiving and praise.

*For God is worthy.
Praise to our God.*

We Confess Our Shortcomings

Compassionate Christ,
you have shown your love
in works of healing,
forgiveness,
and justice,
and by giving yourself to us
and for us,
in your death and resurrection.

*Yet we are slow to love and to serve,
we seek to have our own needs met
before caring for the needs of others;*

Written by John van de Laar

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*We fail to give ourselves,
and choose instead to preserve our safety,
our comfort
and our privilege.*

*Forgive us, heal us,
and teach us to live lives of compassion
following your example.*

Jesus, in extravagant compassion,
has already secured our forgiveness,
and calls us to live
as those who are renewed and thankful.

Receive this grace, and share it.

*We are so grateful;
we will go and live differently
because of what you, Jesus,
have done for us.*

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

We Offer Our Prayers

God, our world desperately needs
your compassion and grace:

We are at war and need to learn peace and understanding,

*We are greedy and selfish and need to learn to serve
and to share the abundance of your world,*

*We are impatient and careless and need to learn
to use this world's resources wisely and sustainably,*

*We are callous and judgemental and need to learn to care for
and to befriend one another,*

*And we are among those who are
sick, grieving, lonely, broken and wounded.*

Silent personal prayers can be offered.

Hear our prayers, Lord, and answer.

Teach us to live as those who give and receive compassion,
even as you have been compassionate toward us.

Amen.

We Come To God's Table

We are so grateful that God has welcomed us to this table,
We celebrate this, and all the ways that God cares for us

and shows us love.

It is good to be reminded of God's compassion and generosity,
*And it is good to respond with thanksgiving,
with praise,
and with generous living.*

Lord God, we are here because you have made it possible,
You made us to be your children, in your image,
You have always surrounded us with your presence,
and in Christ you have shared all that makes us human.

In bringing Jesus back from death,
you have made full and everlasting life available to us,
and you have given us hope in the promise of your coming kingdom.

*We have done nothing to earn these gifts,
we cannot claim to be deserving,
but in your mercy, you welcome us freely.*

Thank you.

And so, we remember how God's compassion was expressed through Jesus:

As he shared his last meal with his friends before his death,
he took the bread,
blessed it,
broke it,
and shared it among them with these words:
This is my body, broken for you. Eat and remember me.

After the meal, he took the cup of wine,
blessed it,
and shared it among them with these words:
This is my blood, poured out for you. Drink and remember me.
And so we eat and drink and remember;
And we will keep doing this until Jesus returns in glory.

Now, O God, may we who share this bread and wine,
be nourished by the body and blood of Christ,
be filled with your spirit,
be transformed into one body,
and be joined with you forever.

The bread and wine are shared.