

## **Words of Gathering**

We come to the Lord's supper together  
as children of our one God.  
Jesus makes the guest list, not us.  
Our family, chosen by God,  
is gathered from west and east,  
and includes everyone who loves Jesus.  
Jesus, when he was resurrected from the dead,  
revealed himself to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread around a table.  
May we see the face of God today as we come to the Lord's Supper.

## **OR**

Come and taste the goodness of God,  
broken open and poured out for you in Jesus' life and death. Come and  
share the goodness of God, in Jesus' name.  
Wherever you've come from, whatever your age,  
come and know that all this is for you.  
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, whatever you've done, all this is  
for you when you receive these gifts  
with all your heart, strength, mind and soul.

God who makes us wonder, Maker of all that is:  
we bless you for every good gift in the world –  
for rain and sunshine to make food grow,  
for starlight in the deep night sky,  
or seeds waking up in the spring time.  
We bless you for the food we eat and water to drink, gifts of your good  
earth.  
We join our voices with all these amazing things to praise you for the life  
you give us.  
We praise you for the gift of Jesus, the bringer of hope to whole world.

## **OR**

Come and see the gifts of God's love,  
laid on this table waiting for you.  
Come and touch the gifts of God's love for you,  
love as fresh as newly baked bread,  
love as lively as wine on the tongue.  
Come and taste the goodness of God,  
broken open and poured out for you in Jesus' life and death.  
Come and share the goodness of God, in Jesus' name.  
Wherever you've come from, whatever your age,  
come and know that all this is for you.  
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, whatever you've done, all this is  
for you when you receive these gifts  
with all your heart, strength, mind and soul. (Maybe more appropriate for  
service with children in)

## **Words for reflection / confession**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

OR

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

OR

Most merciful God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.

## **OR**

We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the  
same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls  
washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell  
in him and he in us. Amen.

## **Possible Scriptures**

- Matthew 26:20, 26-30; Mark 14: 16,22-26; Luke 22:14-20; 1  
Corinthians 11:23-26 or 23-29; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-12

## **Prayers of thanks for the Bread and Wine**

Loving God,  
we praise and thank you  
for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his life and ministry,  
announcing the good news of your kingdom  
and demonstrating its power  
in the lifting of the downtrodden,  
and the healing of the sick,  
and the loving of the loveless.

We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross for the redemption of  
the world,  
and for your raising him to life again,  
as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.

We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world  
and signs of your transforming love.

Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,  
that we may be renewed  
into the likeness of Jesus Christ  
and formed into his Body.

This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

## **OR**

Creating and redeeming God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for your covenant of grace:

a covenant expressed in sinful people who know forgiveness,  
the weary who are refreshed,  
the hungry who are nourished,  
the captives who are set free  
and the oppressed who experience liberation.

Thank you that you chose to make us a part of your story.

Thank you for Jesus Christ  
who revealed your love in his death and resurrection and who continues  
to share his life with us through bread and wine.

Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit who sustains us in our walk  
together, helping us to watch over each other, to pray for one another,  
and to work together for justice and truth.

As we eat this bread

and drink from the cup,

(signs of hospitality and grace),

may we be empowered to serve boldly wherever you may call.

## **Taking the bread & wine.**

On the night he was handed over,  
the night before he was crucified,  
Jesus gathered with his friends for a meal.  
He took the bread, and after blessing it,  
he broke it, saying,  
**“This is my body, which is broken for you.  
As often as you eat it, remember me.”**

Please pray with me:  
**Jesus, as we take this bread,  
let it be a sign of all you did for us,  
and who you are for us.  
Thank you for this bread of life.**

After sharing the bread,  
Jesus took a cup of wine, and gave it to them to drink, saying,  
“This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many.”

## **Prayers for comfort and healing**

Lord God,  
as we come to share the richness of your table, we cannot forget the  
ravenousness of the earth.  
We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry.  
Your world is one world and we are stewards of its nourishment. Lord, put  
our prosperity  
at the service of the poor.

We cannot take wine and forget those who are thirsty.  
The ground and the rootless, the earth and its weary people  
cry out for justice. Lord, put our fullness  
at the service of the empty.  
We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war or, if not  
at war, then preparing for it.

Show us quickly, Lord,  
how to turn weapons  
into welcome signs and the lust for power into a desire for peace.  
We cannot celebrate the feast of your family and forget our divisions. We  
are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still dismember us. Lord,  
heal our church  
in every brokenness. Amen.

**Or**

### **Concluding Words**

Jesus,  
through your death and resurrection you reconciled the world to God,  
and through your example you have shown us a way to peace.  
Give us strength as the people of God  
to be channels of peace in the world,  
speaking your peace, living your peace,  
and always longing for that moment of eternal peace when we shall see  
you again. Amen.

**OR**

Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer  
you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Strengthen us  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.

**OR**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours.  
Take us,

renew and remake us.  
What we have been is past  
what we shall be, through you,  
still awaits us.  
Lead us on.  
Take us with you. Amen.