

## Liturgy for the Agape Feast

### I. PROLOGUE

**Reader:** The Lord is with us. Together with [*names of those celebrating but not present* OR "*our brothers and sisters*"], we lift our hearts to God. It is right and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to God, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

"The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'" – 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

### II. CALL TO THE FEAST

**Reader:** Out of darkness came light, and the power of God was revealed, in the running wave and the flowing air, in the quiet earth and the shining stars.

Out of the dust came life; and the image of God was revealed, in the human face and the gentle heart, in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul.

Out of justice came freedom; and the wisdom of God was revealed, in the need to grow and the will to love, in the chance to know and the power to choose. And God looked at the creation, and behold, it was very good.

Let us pray.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amen.

### III. PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Reader:** "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other." – Mark 9:50

Giving God, you blessed us with saltiness, but we became bland. You trusted us with your Word, but we did not keep it. You lit a flame in our midst, but we hid it under formality, smothered it with our fears. God, in your mercy: forgive us.

*(silence)*

Forgiving God, we believe that you have called us to be salt and light; that you offer us time and space and strength to begin again.

*(silence)*

Giving and forgiving God, we thank you.

#### **IV. PASSING THE PEACE**

*("Peace be with you!")*

#### **V. SHARING THE FEAST + GIVING THANKS**

**Reader:** Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. – Psalm 34:8

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.

*(Participants eat bread and wine, or another food/drink to represent it. As they do, they are invited to share something they are thankful for from the week.)*

#### **VI. BENEDICTION**

*(at the conclusion of each one drinking and eating)*

**Reader:** As we share this bread, we thank you, God, for the food which delights and nourishes us and for the companionship that sustains us.

We thank you, too, for wine 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 can share, a foretaste of the Holy Realm.

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. Amen.

*Modified from the Agape Feast liturgy of the Secular Franciscan Order, USA. June 2020.*