

LENTEN LITURGY

God sent the Son into the world

...not to condemn the world but to save the world that all may have abundant life.

What shall we return to the Lord for such bounty?

**Let us lift up the cup of salvation, let us call on the name of the Lord,
let us pay our vows to the Lord in the presence of all.**

We lift up the cup of salvation

**...in remembrance of the crucified and risen one
...in remembrance of those who know the cup of suffering
...in remembrance of those who need liberation.**

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy. Let us pray...

Creator God, your love for the world is infinite and unending. Your Son Jesus our Saviour commands us to love one another, to love our neighbour, to love our enemy. So, may we live this holy love day by day till all people and the whole creation know your love and abundant life, through Jesus the life of the world. Amen

> Lord, whose love (verses 1 – 3)

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INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

God of Exodus, who wills liberation for all people, we gather at this table with hearts overflowing.

We give thanks for your love, shown to us in the marvels of creation – in the gifts of grape and grain.

We give thanks for your love, shown to us in the history of our faith: your call to our elders, Abraham and Sarah, giving them new life and a new journey.

Your call to our children, Miriam and David, one to protect a baby, one to sing your praises; Your call to outsiders – to Ruth, to Nineveh, showing us that no one is beyond the reach of your heart.

We give thanks for your love, shown to us in Jesus, our friend, our Christ, who came to preach good news to the poor and proclaim release to the captives; who touched the leper and the unclean woman; who turned water into wine and a small child's lunch into great abundance.

We give thanks for your love, shown to us in Jesus, our friend, our Christ, who tells us to sell all we have and give it to the poor, who tells us that those without sin may cast the first stone, who calls us to be, like him, friend of the poor and threat to the powerful.

We give thanks for your love, shown to us in Jesus, our friend, our Christ, whose friends, like us, did not understand him.

Whose friends, like us, sold out, sold him out.

Whose friends, like us, scattered like sheep and ran.

Whose friends, like us, betrayed Jesus.

We give thanks for your love, shown to us in Jesus, our friend, our Christ, who, on the night he most needed love, held the beloved disciple to his chest; who, on the night he most needed love, took the bread, thanked you for the bounty of the earth, broke the bread, and said to his friends: *"Take this, and share it. This is the bread of new life. Whenever you share bread, remember me."*

And later, he took the cup, and said: *"Take this and share it. This is the cup of the new covenant. Whenever you share it, remember me."*

Grain and grape, fruit of the earth. Bread and wine, fruit of our faith

Here is that bread, broken. Here is that wine, poured out. Come, let us share our meal.

Amen