**Liturgy of Foot Washing and the Agape Meal**

***Leader’s Guide***

Developed for Bridgefolk, by Mary Schertz, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (IN) and John Klassen, OSB, Saint John’s Abbey (MN), 2014. This resource may be duplicated and shared so long as the following credit line is included:

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Alternative hymns and scriptures can be used.

**GATHERING**

*When all are assembled, Music Leader invites the assembly to stand and sing an opening hymn of choice.*

*Following an appropriate pause, Presider stands, invites the assembly to stand, and*

*continues:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

Greeting: Grace to you and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: And with your spirit.**

*The Presider may choose to welcome the assembly in his or her own words.*

**Opening prayer**

Gracious and loving God,

Your Son Jesus Christ gathered his disciples

and washed their feet as a sign of his complete gift of self for the sake of humankind.

Hearing his command to follow his example,

we gather to do likewise.

Help us to listen to your word,

to forgive and be forgiven,

to heal and be healed in this saving action.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

forever and ever.

*Invite all to sit.*

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First reading: …**

**Sung Responsorial Psalm: …**

*After an appropriate pause, Music Leader stands, invites assembly to stand, and intones the*

*Alleluia.*

The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to [ … ]

**All: Glory to you O Lord.**

**Gospel reading: …**

The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Following the Gospel, Music Leader intones the Alleluia once again*.

**Homily**

**FOOT WASHING**

*Presider stands and says:* As we prepare to wash each others’ feet, let us remove our shoes.

**Words of invitation**

Friends,

When Jesus knew that his hour had come,

he got up from the table and took a towel;

he poured water into a basin and washed his disciples’ feet.

When he returned to the table,

He told his disciples that they should wash each others’ feet;

and thus follow the example he had set for them.

As Bridgefolk disciples bound together by our faith in Christ,

we are called to ministries of unity and peace

in the name of the one who loves us to the end.

Empowered by the gracious example of our Lord,

as he emptied himself and became servant of all,

we too empty ourselves and become one another’s servant.

As we kneel and rise,

may we too find in embrace and release,

the joy and thanksgiving of our Lord.

The broken and blessed Healer is among us

Let us serve and be served in his presence.

**Rite of preparation**

Gracious God,

As we come to this service of unity and peace,

we confess that your work

of becoming known to us is on-going and ever-present.

We recognize in ourselves Peter’s reluctance as well as his desire;

with Peter we confess that we both fear and long to have a part in Christ.

To You we bring our clutter, our distraction and our attachments.

*Silence*

These we release.

**All: These we release.**

**Footwashing Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

*Invite all to stand.*

Triune God,

You created us for relationship,

and we have found each other, Catholic and Mennonite.

In Jesus, you poured out your love for each one of us;

and in so doing invite us also into the unknown,

there where the weary world waits for your healing touch.

Send us your Spirit, we pray, to gather us in:

--the lost and forsaken, the blind and the lame,

--brothers and sisters in the unity of Christ. .

We come to this service now,

not because we are good,

but because we are yours.

As we kneel and rise,

we remember the night Jesus washed his disciples’ feet

and with him, we pray as he taught us:

“Our Father”

**Words of institution**

Jesus said, “If I, your Lord and Teacher,

have washed your feet,

you also ought to wash one another’s feet,

for I have set you an example,

that you should do, as I have done to you.

You know these things,

and are blessed if you do them.”

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

As the Lord Jesus took a towel and a basin of water,

so too we take these gifts to be set apart for this holy use.

As he gave thanks, let us give our thanks and praise.

The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Holy and Loving God,

We give you thanks for your goodness to us;

we give you thanks for bringing us together as Bridgefolk;

we give you thanks for the unity and peace that sustain us;

we give you thanks for the church that holds us all.

Amen.

*Invite all to be seated.*

**Foot Washing**

Whenever we take this towel and this basin,

we proclaim the way of life, the way of the cross,

the way of suffering love, of non-violence, and reconciliation.

May our kneeling and rising deepen our love

for Jesus and for our brothers and sisters around the table.

May our kneeling and rising deepen our love

for our neighbors and for our enemies.

In our kneeling and rising may we find release from disunity

and be released into joyous communion.

Come, let us wash each other’s feet!

*Ushers will provide directions for approaching the foot-washing stations.*

*The foot washing might be accompanied by reading John 13 or a sung version*

**SIGN OF PEACE**

When Jesus rose from the dead

and appeared to his disciples in Jerusalem,

he said: “Peace be with you!”

In his name and in his risen presence, we say:

**All: The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.**

Let us give one another a sign of peace.

**PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND PETITION**

*Presider invites the assembly to offer prayers of praise and petition by offering the first one.*

*Following each prayer the following dialog is repeated:*

We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers, the Presider offers an extemporaneous concluding prayer to*

*which all respond:*

***Amen****.*

All are invited to move to the banquet tables.

Let’s eat and drink! And don’t forget to wash your hands!

**AGAPE MEAL**

*When all are assembled at the tables, Ubi caritas, (*Hymnal: A Worship Book*, #452;* Voices Together*, #492), is intoned. All sing the antiphon after the cantor and after each verse.*

**Table Blessing Hymn** (Tune: *Old 100th*):

*All join in singing.*

Be present at our table Lord.

Be here and everywhere adored.

These mercies bless and grant that we

May feast in paradise with thee.

**Lighting of the Candles and Thanksgiving for the Light**

*At the conclusion of the Table Blessing Hymn, someone at each table lights the candle. The following prayer is offered.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

You sent your Son Jesus Christ

to be a light for all peoples:

a light for the path of discipleship;

a light to reveal the dignity of all people;

a light of healing, teaching, and forgiveness;

a light to show the power of nonviolent love on the cross.

Send your Spirit to open our eyes

to your presence in the world.

You free our hands to lead others

to the radiant splendor of your mercy and truth.

Be with us in this meal

and bless us with the fullness of life and joy.

To you alone the glory and praise, forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*All are invited to sit (except the Presider!).*

**Blessing of the Bread**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,

Ruler of the universe,

for you bring forth bread from the earth.

**All: Amen.**

Blessed are you, God our Father,

for the life and knowledge

that you have revealed to us

through Christ your Son.

**All: To you be glory forever**.

Just as the bread we break

was once scattered

over the hills and prairies

but now has been gathered and made one,

so let your Church be gathered

from the ends of the earth

into your reign of justice and peace.

**All: For the power and glory are yours forever.**

*Presider breaks bread at his/her table, begins to pass the bread around, and is seated.*

*The bread is then broken and shared at each table.*

**Blessing of the Wine**

**Scripture Reading** (*Reader standing*)

A reading from the holy gospel according to John, chapter 15:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me

that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me

as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the

vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can

do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers;

such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and

my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My

Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit

that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am

giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

*After the reading, the wine is uncorked, poured into glasses, and the glasses are held for the*

*blessing. When all have wine, the Presider stands and says*:

Blessed are you, Lord our God,

creator of the fruit of the vine

which you have given us

to drink new in your reign.

**All: Amen.**

*All salute each other with the wine and drink.*

*The meal proper begins.*

*At the end of the meal, the Presider stands, gathers the attention of the community, and*

*invites them to stand. The final blessing is offered:*

**FINAL BLESSING**

*(All standing)*

We bless you, heavenly Father,

for your holy Name

which you have made

to tabernacle in our hearts,

and for the knowledge, faith, and immortality

that you have revealed to us

through Jesus, your Son.

**All: To you be glory forever.**

Lord Jesus,

you washed the feet of your disciples

as a compelling sign and commandment for us.

Let our participation in the sacrament of foot washing

and in this agape meal

strengthen us for your service,

especially in our work for justice and peace.

**All: To you be glory forever.**

Rain down your Spirit

and protect us from all harm.

Make us strong in your love

and help us walk in courage and joy.

From the four winds gather all your disciples

into communion with you as Triune God,

into the kingdom that you have prepared.

For the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Hymn of Praise:** (Psalm 113, Tune: *Old 100th*)

Praise God, you servants of the Lord,

O praise God’s name with one accord;

O bless the Lord, God’s name adore

From this time forth for evermore.

From rising unto setting sun

Praised be the Lord, the Mighty One;

Who reigns o’er all supreme in might,

Above the heav’ns in glory bright.

God lifts the poor and makes them great,

With joy now fills the desolate;

O praise the Lord and bless God’s name,

God’s mercy and great might proclaim.

*Additional hymn may be sung: Rain Down (*Voices Together*, #703; chorus only)*

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