

LITURGY FOR PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

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Opening Sentences

Psalm 107:1, 9

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

For God satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

Praise the Lord!

or

Give praise to God
who fills the hungry with good things.

Give thanks to God
who brings down the powerful
and lifts up the lowly.

Give your hearts to God who is faithful
and your gifts to the one who is full of grace.

Call to Confession

In baptism, God calls us
to a life of discipleship,
yet the path is hard to follow.
Trusting in God's mercy,
let us confess the ways we have fallen short.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
you call us to follow Jesus,
but we tend to lose our way.
You call us to feed the hungry,
but we are consumed with our own desires.
You call us to clothe the naked,

but we are more concerned with our own needs.
You call us to visit those in prison,
but we are busy with our own concerns.

Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to you.
Give us the will to heed your call;
give us the courage to trust your promises;
give us the strength to follow where you lead,
that all your children may be safe, and fed,
and free from fear.
In Jesus' name we pray.

or

Let us confess our sin to God, saying:
God of mercy, forgive us.
We do not feed those who beg for food.
God of mercy, forgive us.
We turn away from those who have no clean water.
God of mercy, forgive us.
We destroy the earth and pollute the skies.
God of mercy, forgive us.

Forgive us, O God.
Redeem us.
Renew us.
Rouse us and propel us to feed the hungry,
give water to the thirsty,
and care for the planet you have given us,
so that all your children may live in peace.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who will bring a new heaven and a new earth.



Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news!

(Water is poured into the baptismal font.)

In the waters of baptism we are made clean,
forgiven for the wrongs we have done,
pardoned for the mercies we did not give.

(Water is lifted from the font.)

In the waters of baptism we are made new,
reborn to live in obedience and faith.

(Water is lifted from the font.)

In the waters of baptism, we are made strong,
empowered by the Holy Spirit
to walk in the ways of Christ.

Children of God, give thanks!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

or

Jesus Christ was tempted, as we are,
and knows our struggles to be faithful.

He took on our death that he might give us life.

Friends, believe the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Break open before us the bread of life, O Lord,
and feed us with your word,
that we might hear what you say to us today
and follow wherever you lead.

In the name of Jesus, we ask it. **Amen.**

or

You are the bread of life and the cup of salvation;
your Word is like honey, sweet to the taste.

Speak to us of your justice
and proclaim to us your peace,
that we might do your will and share your love.

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

The apostle Paul tells us that
whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.
Don't hold back!
Give with all your heart,
for God loves a cheerful giver.

or

Jesus Christ calls us to share the good news of the gospel:
bread for the hungry,
water for the thirsty,
seeds for the farmer,
books for the schoolchildren,
shelter for those who have none.
With cheerful hearts bring your offerings to the Lord.
Blessed are the feet of those who bring good news!

Prayer of Dedication

All we have is from you, O God.
We give to you with grateful hearts,
sacrificing what we can so that all may live.
Take these offerings and resolve your purposes,
as we watch in hope for your new creation.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

or

Holy God,
multiply these offerings like loaves and fishes,
that the hungry may be filled
and all may sense the depth and breadth
of your love.
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

(A time of silent prayer follows each ellipsis.)
Merciful God,
you know the deep needs of the world.
Trusting in your lovingkindness,
we bring before you our laments, our hopes,
and our supplications.

For your church around the world ...
May Christians be witnesses to your generous grace
in every place on earth.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who govern and those who hold power ...
Cloak our leaders with wisdom
and instill the powerful with concern for the weak.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who live with violence in their streets or their homes ...
Protect the vulnerable, uphold the fearful,
and heal the wounded.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who go to bed hungry each night ...
give them bread to eat, seeds to plant,
and hope to sustain them.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who walk miles for water each day ...
dig them wells that they may drink deeply,
water their crops, and be refreshed.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who weep and those who mourn ...
uphold them, surround them, comfort them;
restore their hope and grant them joy.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those whose needs are known only to you ...
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those we love, and for ourselves ...
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather up the prayers of your people, O God.
Heal our earth, grant justice to your people
and peace to our lands,
as we wait and watch and work in hope
for your new creation.
All this we pray in the name
of our Savior and Sovereign,
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

or

Holy God, who made the world and called it good,
we offer our prayers for your creation and all who live in it.

Heal our planet and make us good stewards;

God of grace, renew us.

Reconcile enemies and strengthen the bonds of friends;

God of grace, renew us.

Hinder the greedy; thwart the traffickers; free those unjustly bound;

God of grace, renew us.

Give bread to the hungry and water to the thirsty;

God of grace, renew us.

Grant growth to the farmers and knowledge to the learners;

God of grace, renew us.

Make the stingy generous and the haughty humble;

God of grace, renew us.

Empower the weak and comfort the sorrowful;

God of grace, renew us.

Restore our vision of the world you intend,
revive our hope in the new creation you will bring,
and keep us faithful as we watch for your coming
and work for your reign of justice, and peace, and love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the giver of all good gifts
bless you and keep you,
this day and forevermore.

or

May Christ walk with you,
the Spirit burn inside you,
and the Almighty keep you,
now and forever.

Charge

What does the Lord require of you?
To justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.

or

Go and tell the good news:
Justice is coming,
and peace is on the way.