

A Food Waste Weekend liturgy suggestion from BFJYAV

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 1:26-31

Matthew 25:35-40

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 8)

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens; infants and children sing praises to your name!

When I look at your heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars that you have established;

What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made us a little lower than God, and crowned us with glory and honor.

You have entrusted to us the works of your hands; you have put all things in our care,

All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea.

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, Judge of the nations:

We confess that we have not seen your face among our neighbors in need. We have not shared our food with the hungry; we have not offered clothes to the destitute or shelter to the homeless. We have not welcomed the stranger, nor have we visited prisoners. We have not paid attention to these, your sisters and brothers, [nor have we paid attention to the impact of our wasting good food], and in our neglect we have failed to serve you.

Lord, forgive us; open our eyes to recognize your beloved family, and give us the blessing of sincere repentance that we may know the joy of eternal life with you and all the saints in this world and in the world to come. Amen.*

* Prayer of Confession is from Feasting on the Word, Year A, Volume Two. Westminster John Knox Press, 2015, with Food-Waste-related addition in brackets

Alternate Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we confess that we have assumed that some people are not worthy to receive our crumbs. Just as you heard the pleas of the Syrophenician woman, help us to hear and learn from those who are excluded, marginalized, and hungry.

We confess that we have eaten and drunk in casual ease while others hunger and thirst.

We confess that we have been careless with our food purchases and preparation, wasting precious resources with which we have been blessed, and that in so doing, we have perpetuated cycles that rob both land and fellow humans of needed nutrients.

We confess that comfort calls sweetly to us, while life-giving change feels inconvenient or unpleasant.

Heal us, we pray. Help us to see clearly and compassionately.

Help us to learn humbly and act faithfully, that one day we might join the joyous feast at your table, from which no one is excluded. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God, Creator of the earth and all living things, made humankind in God's image, and called us good. Know that you are a child of God, who calls you Beloved. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and empowered to walk in God's ways in fullness of life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

God of Abundance, all that we have comes from you, your elemental gifts of creation—land, air, and water, along with plants, animals, and people. You have given every good and perfect gift, and we give generously in return. Accept these our financial tithes and offerings as a sign of the offering of our lives. Through the power of your Spirit, may we live gratefully and faithfully, stewarding our food, finances, and carbon footprint, into a reflection of your creating and sustaining love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions (GTG = Glory to God, PH = Presbyterian Hymnal)

GTG 14 PH 473 For the Beauty of the Earth

GTG 713 Touch the Earth Lightly

GTG 36 PH553 For the Fruit of All Creation