

These words, these acts and these age-old memories speak again.

In them we hear the invitation  
to be enfolded in the Presence and love of the Jesus who died,  
who lives and who is here.

***O Jesus, nourish our souls with Your body, Your blood  
and Your Presence.***

*The people are invited to receive the bread and wine with these words:*

Come, in response to His call.

Eat, drink, and visit with Jesus.

Enjoy the fruit of His self-giving  
and be nourished in your spirit, soul and body.

*With this liturgy, the enacted message of death and new life can be emphasized by giving each worshipper a seed - symbolising the potential for God's life in their lives - with the bread and wine. Ask the worshippers to hold the seeds until the end of the service, and use them as a meditation as others are receiving the elements.*

#### **Prayers of Sending**

Alive and enlivening God,

In the simple and ordinary task of eating and drinking,

In this simple and ordinary meal of bread of wine,

You have sown into our spirits the supernatural and eternal seed of life.

***And we are eternally thankful.***

You have transformed this simple and ordinary gathering  
into Your Church - the messenger of abundant life.

***And we are eternally thankful.***

Now, God of our hearts,

Sow us into the world

to be seeds of growth and nourishment and resurrection

to all of God-imaged humanity.

***We go as sent-ones;***

***Endowed with the gifts of God's whole-hearted acceptance***

***Jesus' world-hugging love***

***And the Spirit's life-sharing companionship.***

***And so may it be until resurrection is complete. Amen.***



## A Liturgy for the Celebration of Sacrifice

#### **Call to Worship**

Come, Seekers of Life!

Let us sow the seeds of our prayers and songs into the fertile soil of  
God's Presence.

Let life crack open our hearts, and give birth to renewed spirits.

Let all that brings death be consumed in the passionate flame  
of our worship.

And let the resurrection power of our God  
be expressed and made visible in the shared intimacy  
of this sacred meal.

#### **Offering Praise & Requesting New Life**

O Seed of Spirit, Rhythm of growth and heartbeat,

The vibrant power which You lavish on this world,

incarnated through Your fingers,

cannot be contained.

***Life breaks out . . .***

In the first colourful petal bursting from the bud.

***Life breaks out . . .***

In the green spear of grass breaking through the earth.

***Life breaks out . . .***

In the moist-headed chick falling out of its discarded egg.

***Life breaks out . . .***

In the first gasp of the child newly emerged from the womb.  
**May all that is life express Your praise, O Source of Life.**  
O Self-Giving, Grave-opening Christ,  
The extravagant energy of Your death-denying blood is irrepressible.  
**Life invades . . .**  
Every dark and despairing place and offers the light of hope.  
**Life invades . . .**  
Every hostile and divided place and offers the embrace of peace.  
**Life invades . . .**  
Every diseased and decaying place and offers the balm of wholeness.  
**May all that is life express Your praise, O Source of Life.**  
O Rescuing, Life-preserving Saviour  
Death is constantly grasping at our souls,  
siphoning away our spirits  
and leaving our life-reserves empty.  
But, we cannot claim to be unwilling hostages.  
We embrace the subtle words and ways of decay,  
blindly suffocating ourselves and our companions.  
Like the seed which finds its life by laying life aside,  
may we die to all that keeps us from life,  
and discover the resurrection which only You can bestow.  
**Every living moment that You have given,  
we return in praise to You, O Source of Life. Amen.**

### **Praying Faith**

Ours is the treasured conviction that God as the Mother of all things,  
gave birth to the visible and invisible universe.  
**Out of this seed of faith we discover the confidence  
to bring to You, Our Father,  
our broken and dying world.**  
**Our plea is that You would transform its dyings into seeds of life.**  
Ours is the treasured conviction that God was born human,  
lived a human life,  
known to us as Jesus,  
and died a human death at human hands.  
Ours is the treasured conviction that the life of Jesus  
was stronger than the grave which imprisoned Him,  
and that He returned to His compassionate throne  
to make life available to all creation.  
**Out of this seed of faith we discover the comforting reality that You,  
Brother Christ, walk at our side through our hurting.**

**Our plea is for every sufferer, that Your life would triumph  
over every prison of pain.**  
Ours is the treasured conviction that the Breath of God  
hovers over creation still,  
birthing timeless, boundary-crossing relationships,  
removing the stains of decay,  
and opening graves until time ceases to be.  
**Out of this seed of faith we discover the warm glow of hope.  
Our plea is for all whose eyes are blinded by their despair,  
for all who grasp too firmly to this temporary reality,  
and for all who work to show the world the vision of Your future.  
God of our hearts, and of our world, may our longings  
be inspired by Yours,  
and may these prayers be a proclamation of Your Word  
to a humanity which hears with difficulty.**  
**Amen.**

### **Memory and Meeting**

As we enter this moment of memory and meeting,  
we prepare our hearts to know again the awakening touch  
of God's Spirit.  
**We open our heart's door to the God of our hearts**

### *Moment of Silence*

God's children share in a sacred memory of Jesus -  
His gift from the night He was given over to be broken.  
In His hands, simple bread was taken, gratefully lifted,  
torn apart and shared among His friends.  
"My body is torn so that you may be whole"  
**Unless a seed falls into the earth and dies, it can bear no fruit.**  
*The Bread is Broken visibly for all the people to see*

God's children share in a sacred memory of Jesus -  
His gift from the night He was given over to be pierced.  
In His hands, a simple cup of wine was taken, gratefully lifted  
and shared among His friends.  
My blood is poured out so that you may be clean  
**Unless a seed falls into the earth and dies, it can bear no fruit.**

*The Cup of Wine is held up for all the people to see*