

# FOOD SECURITY LITURGY

## SECONDARY

### Note to Teachers

This liturgy has been designed for students to reflect on the issue of hunger and food insecurity in our world. Feel free to use this liturgy as you wish, adapting it to your on school and students' needs.

Before the liturgy, you may wish to ask students to write down a pledge to be offered up during the liturgy. The pledge could use the stem: *I will work towards ending hunger by...*

### Entrance Procession

- Entrance song: *Chris Tomlin – At The Table*
- You may want to select a few students to process into the liturgy with items and symbol relating to food in our world. Some suggested items include the Gospel, a candle, a basket with bread, an image of loaves of bread and fish.

### Greeting and Introduction

**Leader:** Good Morning Staff and Students. Today we reflect on the lack of food security in our world. We recall Jesus' message at the Last Supper each time we participate in the Eucharist. Jesus' ministry reminds us of the importance of service to others. Just as he fed the five thousand, we too are called to work towards a world where the hungry are fed, and food insecurity does not exist.

### Opening Prayer

*(Make the sign of the cross)*

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

Amen.

Loving God, we come together to shine a light on the injustice that is food security in our world. May we open our hearts to your messages of love and compassion, and like you, work towards a just world where hunger does not exist. Inspire us to make a difference in the lives of others as we stand in solidarity with our global brothers and sisters.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia.

I am the bread of life, says the Lord.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry.

Alleluia

### Gospel Reading

**Matthew 25: 31-40 – New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

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Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Gospel Reflection

- You can select one student to read each of the reflection pieces below or assign each one to a different reader to allow more students to participate in the liturgy.
- Select 5 or 6 students to perform a tableau drama piece (group of silent, motionless figures used to represent a scene), as each reading below is being read. Suggestions have been provided but students are also encouraged to come up with their own ideas.

**Reader 1:** The Catholic community is a Eucharistic community. The celebration of Jesus' last supper is at the heart of our liturgical and spiritual lives. In Matthew 25:35 Jesus identified himself completely with the hungry, and the symbols of bread and wine for his body and blood put food and hunger before us.

*Tableau suggestion: A Priest consecrating, or offering the Eucharist at Mass.*

**Reader:** The Eucharist is the centre of our life as a community, but it is not only about our own personal experience when we take the Eucharist.

*Tableau suggestion: Holding hands, standing as one community.*

**Reader:** We are energised and empowered by the Eucharist to go out and fulfil our mission of sharing our bread with the hungry, recognising Christ in those without food.

*Tableau suggestion: Feeding the hungry and sharing food with others.*

**Reader:** When the bread and wine are prepared for consecration during Mass, we recognise them as the fruits of creation and work of human hands, of God's gift and of human effort. In recognising the value of creation and of human labour, we also respect these, not as something to be bought and sold, but as gifts.

*Tableau suggestion: A group of people working together.*

**Reader:** We bring our own hungers – for food, for friendship and fellowship, for love, for justice, for God – to the altar when we receive communion, and we share with the hungers of all those we share the communion meal with, both in our immediate community, and our global human family.

*Tableau suggestion: Students individually represent friendship/fellowship, love, food and justice.*

**Reader:** As human beings and as a Eucharistic community, we must be involved in ensuring that people have enough to eat. It's us the Lord is speaking to today: "You give them something to eat", and he knows we have the gifts and capabilities to do so!

*Tableau suggestion: Jesus preaching to a group of people.*

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**Reader:** He says to us: You who are my disciples, don't abandon them to their fate. Do something. Stretch your imagination and be creative. Work endlessly and share what you have!

*Tableau suggestion: Someone painting, someone dancing, someone creating.*

**Reader:** Fight selfishness and don't waste anything. Protest so that the exploitation of the most vulnerable comes to an end. Demand that land can be shared amongst all members of our global family,

*Tableau suggestion: Sharing of goods and land amongst all.*

**Reader:** Give the poor, women and farmers the skills and tools they need to produce, process and sell the products of their land.

*Tableau suggestion: Someone teaching others how to read/write or build.*

**Reader:** Do the same as God, who is always interested in our daily bread: from the offering of bread in the Temple to the breaking of bread in Emmaus, from the manna of the exodus to the multiplication of loaves and fishes, the Lord has always paid attention to human hunger.

*Tableau suggestion: Jesus reaching out to the hungry.*

**Reader:** May we be inspired to rediscover and go deeper into the mystery of the Eucharist. The Lord left us this memorial – which he wanted to remain vitally present among us through the symbols of bread and wine – for a reason.

*Tableau suggestion: Jesus breaking bread at the Last Supper.*

**Reader:** We cannot break Eucharistic bread or become communities that celebrate the Eucharist, without doing all we can to ensure our sisters and brothers have access to sufficient, good-quality food. The Eucharist is a symbol of God's compassionate, merciful and redeeming love.

*Tableau suggestion: Standing together as one united community.*

**ALL:** Let our participation in the Eucharist continually deepen in us, a hunger for justice.

Adapted from: ['Our Daily Bread' Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand](#) And [Cardinal Oscar Andrés Cardinal Maradiaga, President Of Caritas Internationalis](#)

### Offering of Student Pledges

Song suggestion: *Matt Maher – Unwavering*

Call upon students to silently come up one by one, or a class at a time, to place their pledges into the bowl at the sacred space.

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### Prayers of the Faithful

**Reader 1:** We pray for an end to world hunger. May our global brothers and sisters no longer experience hunger and food insecurity, as we work in solidarity to ensure sustenance in the water and earth that you have gifted to us.

**Response:** Lord hear our prayer

**Reader 2:** We pray for our world leaders and governments, that they take the necessary action to ensure fairness and equality in our world. May they be inspired by your ministry to support communities in owning their own land, and provide them with the resources needed to end food insecurity.

We pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord hear our prayer.

**Reader 3:** We pray for ourselves, that we may appreciate the blessing of food and give thanks for our daily bread. May we share our abundance with others as we work towards a world with no hunger.

We pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** We pray for our world, that we heed the urge to tackle climate change that impacts food security. May we make the necessary changes in our lives to contribute towards a sustainable future, both for communities in need and future generations.

We pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord hear our prayer

### Closing Prayer

Loving God, you showed us how to live a life of service through your ministry. May we be inspired to work towards ending hunger through the little actions we can take in our every day lives, to supporting those, like Caritas, who work with communities in need in our world. Fill us with the Holy Spirit as we become agents of change, ensuring that all are nourished.

*(Make the sign of the cross)*

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

Amen

### Recessional Song

Steve Angrisano – *Go and Make a Difference*