

FOOD SECURITY LITURGY

PRIMARY

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 own school and student's 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*
- Once all are seated, 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 and a bowl for the student pledges. These items can then be placed at the sacred space located at the front or centre of the room.

Greeting and Introduction

Leader: Good Morning. Today we reflect on the problem of food insecurity in our world. Jesus shared the important message of community and caring for others at the Last Supper, and we remember this every time we take communion. Jesus' life reminds us of how important it is to serve others in need. Just like he performed the miracle where he fed five thousand people, we are also encouraged to work towards a world where all people have enough healthy food to eat.

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 reflect on hunger in our world today. 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 together with our brothers and sisters around the world.

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 14: 13-21 – Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a lonely place apart. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. As he went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

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Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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: When we celebrate the Eucharist, we remember that we are a Catholic community. Jesus' breaking of the bread and drinking of the wine at the Last Supper is so important to our lives as Christians. In the Gospel reading of Matthew that was just read, we see the true message of Jesus come to life when we feed the hungry. We hear how Jesus had compassion for the crowd gathered. Compassion leads us to action. Jesus indicates what every disciple can and should do so that no one lacks bread. He does not resolve the problem of hunger without human cooperation. The disciples were concerned that what they had, was not enough. However, once shared there was enough, and they even had left-overs.

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

Reader: Communion, also known as the Eucharist, is the centre of our life as a community, but it is not only about our own personal experience when we participate in the Eucharist. It is about coming together as one.

Tableau suggestion: Holding hands, standing as one community.

Reader: We are energised and encouraged by the Eucharist to go out and share our bread with the hungry and recognise Jesus in those without food. We are all, in fact, children of God.

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

Reader: We bring our own need for food, for friendship, for love and for justice to God when we receive communion. We think about the same needs of members of our school and local community, as well as our brothers and sisters in our global human family.

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

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Reader: As one human family, we need to work towards making sure that people have enough to eat. Jesus gave us all the message to feed the hungry, and he knows we have the gifts and talents to do so!

Tableau suggestion: Jesus preaching to a group of people.

Reader: He says to us: You who are my disciples, do something. Stretch your imagination and be creative. Work endlessly and share what you have!

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

Reader: Jesus tells us not to be selfish with what we have and not to waste anything. We need to stand up for communities that are left hungry and treated unfairly. We need to make sure that land can be shared amongst all members of our global family.

Tableau suggestion: Sharing of goods and land amongst all.

Reader: Give the farmers the skills and tools they need to make and sell the products of their land.

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

Reader: Do the same as Jesus, who is always interested in feeding the hungry. Such as when Jesus shared the bread and fish to feed the five thousand, and during his last meal with his disciples at the Last supper.

Tableau suggestion: Jesus reaching out to the hungry.

Reader: Jesus used the symbols of sharing the bread and wine for a reason. May we always remember his messages of love and compassion when we gather for communion and know that when he shared the bread and wine with his disciples, it was a reminder for us to share what we have with others.

Tableau suggestion: Jesus breaking bread at the Last Supper.

Reader: May we work together, as one global human family, to make sure everyone has enough to eat.

Tableau suggestion: Standing together as one united community.

ALL: When we participate in Communion at Mass, may it inspire in us a hunger for justice.

Adapted from: [‘Our Daily Bread’ Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand](#) And [Cardinal Oscar Andr s 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

Leader: Jesus taught us to pray for his needs so now, let us place them before him:

Reader 1: We pray for an end to world hunger. May our brothers and sisters around the world no longer experience hunger and food insecurity.

We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for our world leaders and governments to make sure that there is fairness and equality in our world. May they work towards justice like Jesus did, helping communities to own their own land and have the resources needed to grow their own food.

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 food 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 work towards stopping climate change which affects food security. May we make changes in our lives to work towards a sustainable future, both for communities in need and future generations.

We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We make these prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Closing Prayer

Loving God, through Jesus' life you showed us how to live a life of service. May we be inspired to work towards ending hunger through the little actions we can take in our everyday lives and by supporting organisations like Caritas, who work with communities in need in our world. Fill us with the Holy Spirit as we work towards change, making sure no one goes hungry.

(Make the sign of the cross)

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

Amen

Sending Forth

Leader: Go forth in love, proclaiming the Lord's message of peace and justice in our world.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Song

We are the body of Christ by Andrew Chinn