

Blessing of Agape Food in Liturgy

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for the goodness and love
which you have made known to us in creation;
in the calling of Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

Before he died for us, Jesus shared a meal with his friends--
an everyday meal of bread and wine,
ordinary food and drink for the ordinary people of God.
This food he blessed, and commanded them to partake,
his Body and his Blood of the New Covenant.

(HAND ABOVE FOOD)

Although today we are unable to consecrate bread and wine to be the Body and Blood
of Christ,
we present to you, Lord, our everyday food of everyday people,
and ask that you bless this food, taken from your creation,
that this food may nourish us, to nourish others.
Bless us also, that with your guidance, we may be bearers of hope and truth
to all your people.

This we ask in the name of your Son;
by him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

(RAISE FOOD AND DRINK)

These are the gifts that God has given us for life. Not consecrated but nevertheless blessed; not sanctified but nevertheless holy; not transformed but nevertheless transforming. With your meal, feed on Jesus in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

(FOOD FIRST, THEN DRINK)

(PRAYER AFTER MEAL)

Prayer in Place of Holy Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.