

Liturgy for the Day Laborer

Note: **Bold text is read together**, normal text is read by the leader, and *italicized text is instructional/optional*.

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The year of Jubilee was God's systemic plan for dismantling inequality through the redistribution of wealth. It was a blueprint to prevent the rich from getting richer and the poor from getting poorer; a declaration that, as Gandhi would later say, "There is enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed."

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Let us worship the Lord in song

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty. Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty. God in three persons blessed trinity.**

God With Us, you asked us to go be with them; to mourn with those who mourn and to celebrate with those who celebrate. As a reenactment of the Incarnation, we, in solidarity, rise when they rise, eat what they eat, and wait while they wait. Help us to blur the lines between "us and them" until there is only an "us."

May we never be full, if even one of us is hungry.

A Reading from Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the Lord : **he turned to me and heard my cry.**
He lifted me out of the slimy pit : **out of the mud and mire.**
He set my feet upon a rock : **and gave me a firm place to stand.**
He put a new song in my mouth : **a hymn of praise to our God.**
Many will see and fear the Lord : **and put their trust in him.**

Praise to the One who lifts valleys up high and brings mountains down low : **May we learn to do the same.**

A Reading from Jeremiah 22:15a-16 & 29:7

"[King Josiah] administered justice and righteousness...He took up the cause of the poor and needy, and so it went well. Is this not what it means to know me?" declares the Lord", "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

A Reading from Luke 3:11

"Anyone who has two coats should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

May we never be full, if even one of us is hungry.

Peruvian theologian and priest, Gustavo Gutierrez, made a scathing distinction between transactional and relational acts of charity when he asked, "You say you care about the poor? Then tell me, what are their names?" Jesus didn't say that his followers would know of the poor, but rather that we would actually *know* them, indicating that when we genuinely love them, we'll stop calling them "the poor" and start calling them by their names.

Prayers for Others

Our Father

Lord, as we prepare to serve, remind us that if we have more than we need, it's not our daily bread that we've come to give, it's their daily bread that we've come to return. Salvage the bread that society has cast off and repurpose it for your Kingdom just as you have salvaged and repurposed us. Let it be bread for the flesh, and to our spirits, a hopeful reminder that you're not through with us yet. Amen.