

Opening prayer: O God you have called us to faith and have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses you have encouraged us by the good examples of your saints, you have provided the way through the life and death of your Son, our Saviour. Through his broken body and shed blood you have gathered us at table. Grant ~~us~~ to us, we pray, the saving medicine of Christ, that we may at last inherit your eternal joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral prayer: O God of bread and wine and tables everywhere, draw us together around your table today. Grant us the vision to see at this table our neighbors around the table, and around the world. Open our ears that we may hear in new accents the varieties of languages, words and images used to express your love for all of us. Quicken our taste that in the texture of bread and the flow of wine we may sense your goodness through the common things of life. Liberate our tongues that we may sing your praises, speak your truth and give voice to your good news in ways that will nourish our world. Prepare our hands to receive this sacrament and then to reach out in sacramental love to our world.

As the gracious Host who calls the  
world to your banquet, give us open, wel-  
coming spirits in order to embrace those  
who are lonely or doubting or different.  
May we be sensitive to the needs of those  
who cannot be ~~seen~~ or choose <sup>not</sup> to be, at your  
table this day. We lift them now in prayer.

