

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

Like bread that feeds us,
wine which refreshes and gladdens us,
Like fire that warms us,
a blanket that wraps around us,
Like the nurture of a mother,
the attention of a lover,
Your Word whispers into our souls,
nourishing,
strengthening,
empowering.

We praise you, Jesus,
Word of God,
Bread of Life,
for your kindness to us;
And for the words you give us
to speak,
to live,
which fill the world with kindness,
and life.

We follow you, Jesus,
today as we worship;
In words of love and devotion
sung and spoken,
In service and kindness
in shared life and sacrificial service.

And all we need do to follow you
as we leave this place
is to continue saying and doing
– to others –
what we bring to you in this hour.

And so we pray for praise and affirmation
to empower our families and communities;
to nurture the young and uphold the aged.
To the heal the infirm, to care for the dying,
and to grieve for all those who have died during this pandemic,
each life known to you, each name, and each face.

For confession and forgiveness
to reconcile personal and national enemies,
and lead us into integrity and goodness;
For thanksgiving and generosity
to curb our greed,
and overcome poverty;
For intercession and compassion
to heal the broken,
defend the weak,
and guide the powerful.

As you feed us now, Jesus, in our worship,
may we become, again, your body
which nourishes the world,
and embraces all people with kindness.
Amen.