

# LITURGY FOR A SHARED MEAL

The Season of Lent: Week 4

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## OPENING GREETING

*Leader:* I lift my eyes up to the hills,  
where does my help come from?

*All:* **My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Leader:* Blessed are you, God of everlasting covenant,  
for your promises are steadfast  
and your provision is sure.

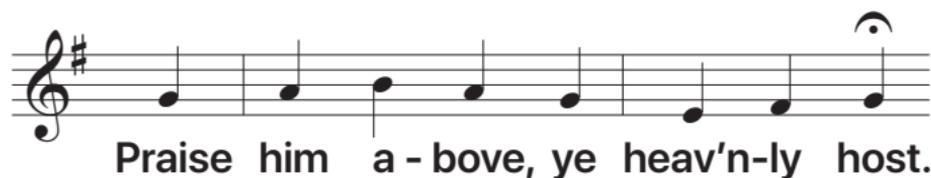
Through the forty years  
of your people's desert wanderings  
you were constant in fire and cloud;  
with manna and mercy  
you sustained every step.

You made Jesus' temptation of forty days  
a theater of truth  
where your Word stood strong.

In every age you have shaped your people  
through times of wilderness and wandering,  
of temptation and trial,  
and brought them into the land  
of promise and the life of covenant.

And so with all who have walked  
the wilderness way in every time  
and all you walk it this day,  
with angels and archangels,  
and all the company of heaven,  
we join the unending hymn:

*Everyone sings the Doxology together:*



## REMEMBERING GOD'S STORY

*Invite another individual or multiple people to read (or even "present") the following three texts.*

*If kids are present, they can read too—notice the length of each passage is indicated by a gray bar.*

**Leader:** Hear now

the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

After each reading,

I will state a truth presented in the Gospel,  
and we can all respond with, "Amen."

*("Amen" is of Hebrew origin and means "so be it").*

**Matthew 9:9-13** is read 

*Leader:* Those in need are invited to eat with God.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Mark 14:22-26** is read 

*Leader:* Those who eat with God  
are invited into relationship (i.e. covenant)  
with him.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Luke 24:36-49** is read 

*Leader:* Those in relationship with God  
are empowered to be his witnesses.

*All:* **Amen.**

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## PRAYER OF BLESSING

*Leader:* Redeemer God,  
over forty days you flooded the earth,  
over forty years you led your people  
through the wilderness,  
and over forty days your Spirit led Jesus  
through the desert.

As we journey through the wilderness  
of this social fast,  
bless us through this food and drink  
to live lives that resemble that of Christ.  
Send down your Holy Spirit,  
that this table might be longer and wider  
than we can see,  
so that we may be united through faith  
to those present, those absent,  
and to you, our Lord and Savior.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Leader:* And now, with glasses raised,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

*All:* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

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## THE MEAL

*Leader:* Let's eat, recognizing that it is through a meal  
that we have fellowship with God  
and with each other.

*Portion of Prayers taken from:*

Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher. *Eucharistic Prayers.*

Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2016.