# **Mission and Service Thanksgiving Liturgy 2025**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Life of the Congregation

## Acknowledging the Land

Long before those of us who are settlers and those who are descendants of settlers came to this land to live, there were people here. We acknowledge that many Nations of Indigenous people have lived on the land. We give thanks to this land, the territory of the *(name(s) of the Indigenous people(s) whose territory you are in)* and commit to the stewardship of this land.

## Lighting the Christ Candle

We light a candle and remember this truth about Christ’s love: like a flame, Christ’s love doesn’t go out when we give it to others, it only grows and burns brighter.

**Let us be people who share freely the light and love of Christ. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

## Call to Worship

We gather today as people who are hungry.

**We are hungry for good news and hope for the future.**

We gather today as people who are hungry.

**We are hungry for community and the blessing of being known.**

We gather today as people who are hungry.

**We may be physically hungry or spiritually hungry or both, but we all know what it feels like to long for what we don’t have.**

Friends, let us gather around and worship the One called the Bread of Life, the One who feeds and provides for all our needs.

## Opening Prayer

**Holy One, in this sacred time of worship, may we become more aware of our humanity and your divinity. In our created-ness, no matter our economic status or background, we are people who need things to sustain our lives. We need food. We need love. We need purpose. As Creator, you offer us what we need to feel fully alive. May we be moved to share with others and create a world where all are fed. Amen.**

## Children’s Time/Theme Time

Have some snacks (grapes or cut fruit, crackers, easy finger food).

Before sharing the snacks, ask the children/listeners if they can think of a time they felt “hangry” (angry because they are hungry). Listen to their stories and/or be ready to share your own.

Share that when we are hungry, we are not able to make great decisions (like coming home from the grocery story with three bags of cookies). We can also be mean or even feel like we want to cry.

Talk about how Jesus often ate with people. How he shared food and encouraged others to share their food. Based on our experiences of hanger, do you think Jesus had that in mind when he shared food? Maybe they could better listen to what he was sharing about God when their stomachs weren’t growling.

Share, “I am going to be talking about God and trying to spiritually feed everyone here this morning, so can you help me share these snacks with everyone in worship? If you are watching online, consider going to grab a snack so that you are physically fed and ready for worship.”

## Hymn

## Prayer for Illumination

God of the Harvest, as we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, we are hungry for truth and hope. Through your Spirit, as we hear these sacred texts, plant in us seeds of curiosity and wisdom so that we may bear fruit of justice, compassion, and generosity. In the name of the Bread of Life, we pray, Amen.

## Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Psalm 100

Philippians 4:4–9

John 6:25–35 (this sermon focuses on this text)

## Sermon

## Response Hymn

## Mission and Service Story

## Offering Invitation

In cultures all over the world, there are festivals when the harvest comes in. Times of plenty are celebrated and shared. Today is our turn. Together, we have so much. Let us share and give thanks for what God has given and rejoice in God’s abundance. Please be generous in your gifts for the ministry if this Community of Faith and for Mission and Service.

## Offering Dedication

Abundant God, in this season of celebrating and sharing, when we learn how little it takes to be content, we will learn to share more. Receive these offerings along with our thanks. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Creator God, in your good world, there is enough for all. There is enough nutritious food to fuel our bodies, enough resources to shelter us all, enough meaningful work to do. You feed us in so many ways.

**We give you thanks, Bread of Life.**

Parent God, you made us to live in families and communities so that there would always be enough joy to share, enough love to lift others up, enough compassion to get us through difficult times.

**We give you thanks, Bread of Life.**

Spirit God, throughout our lives, you offer opportunities to grow, to learn, to be challenged. You have formed us in your image—with curiosity about the world around us, and individual callings and purposes that meet the world’s needs.

**We give you thanks, Bread of Life.**

Yet, we know, Creator God, that we and others have desired more than enough. Things are out of balance and not everyone has enough food to eat, enough shelter to be safe, enough work to allow the bills to be paid. So that all may have life, and have it abundantly,

**deepen our generosity, Bread of Life.**

And we know, Parent God, that sometimes we have thought that keeping ourselves away from others would bring us more joy. We have tried to protect ourselves from being hurt by withholding our compassion. In doing so, many become isolated, lacking the support they need, and our communities become divided. So that all may have life, and have it abundantly,

**deepen our generosity, Bread of Life.**

And when we are physically and emotionally hungry, we know it is hard to let you in to transform our hearts, Spirit God. While some have the opportunity to meet you in worshipping communities, centres of education, yoga, or the beauty of nature, others of us are just too busy working for the basics of life, and we miss out on the opportunity to grow fully into the people you would have us be. So that all may have life, and have it abundantly,

**deepen our generosity, Bread of Life.**

Hear now, Loving God, our specific prayers for those in our community and world who are hungry—whether it be physically, emotionally, or spiritually... *(Prayers specific to the community of faith may be added here.)*

Holy One, you feed us in so many ways, and through the work of our Mission and Service partners, and the ministry of our own community of faith, we are able to offer the Bread of Heaven, the Bread of Life, the Bread that gives life to the world to your children. We pray and work for a world where none will be hungry and all will experience abundant life.

Amen.

## The Lord’s Prayer

## Commissioning Hymn

## Benediction

## Postlude

## Suggested Hymns

### **Discipleship Themed**

*Soil of God, You and I* MV 174

*Grateful* MV 182

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* VU507

### **Thanksgiving Themed**

*Now Thank We All Our God* VU236

*Praise God for the Harvest* VU517

### **Bread Themed**

*Bread of Life, Feed My Soul* MV 194

*Bread of Life, Broken and Shared* MV197

*All Who Hunger* VU460