

## The Ministry of the Assembly

Yours is a share  
in the work  
of the Spirit of all that is holy,  
for in who you are  
and in what you do  
is found the most powerful  
experience of the sacred.

Yours is the kingdom community  
whose very assembling  
is sacrament of God's presence in the world.

In the living words, gestures, sacrifice,  
and meal of your common prayer,  
the living God is disclosed  
as the faithful and redeeming Lord  
whose tent is pitched among us.

Yours is to be nothing more  
and nothing less than the body of Christ.

Yours is the ministry of being the beloved  
and espoused of God.

Through your lives and in you midst  
the tidings of salvation  
are faithfully proclaimed.

Yours is the work of telling and handling on  
the story of God's mercy.

You are the people  
who embody the promise of life forever.

For the world you are evidence  
that the word of judgment  
is tempered with compassion.

Yours is the ministry  
of celebrating again and again  
the Passover meal of the new Covenant.

Your sacrifice of praise  
is a hymn to the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world.

Yours is the work  
of gathering at the table which welcomes all  
who turn their hearts back to God.

Yours is the ministry to bring bread and wine,  
to give thanks,  
to break and share the bread,  
to bless and share the cup  
-remembering Christ Jesus  
broken and poured out for your sakes.

Yours is the proclamation of the  
'mysterium fidei', the mystery of faith.

Come to your ministry from your personal prayer:  
it is the home from which your journey  
to the house of God's people,  
to the tables of their common prayer.

Come prepared to be surprised  
by God's word and presence  
in the assembly of your neighbors.

Come as you are!  
Come as sinners  
who need to find mercy,  
as the redeemed who need to give thanks.

Come with all that needs to be healed,  
to the Lord who comes to heal you.

come with no expectations,  
save the sure hope of communion  
with the Holy One  
in the family of God's people.

If your community's liturgy  
is alive and beautiful,  
take care  
lest you begin to worship your worship:  
this is idolatry.

If your community's liturgy  
needs help-offer it!

Model your community's liturgy  
on Christ's divine service,  
not on the experience of neighboring parishes.

The Liturgy your parish offers  
is often a mirror of the life your parish lives:  
look into that mirror  
and see what you will see;  
then do what must be done.

When visitors praise and thank you  
for the worship you have offered,  
take delight in the blessing  
they have received,  
and rejoice in the work  
the Lord has accomplished through you.

Be faithful in the work you do,  
for through it the lord saves his people.