

# LITURGY FOR THE LOVE FEAST



“Agape” is the New Testament Greek work for “self-giving love”. In the Christian tradition an “Agape” is also the name for informal meals and times of togetherness and mutual sharing which remind us of all those Early Christians’ “Love Feasts” and the unity that the Spirit continues to give us.

## BELL SOUNDS

### THE BLESSING OF THE MEAL

**LEADER:** How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for G-d’s people to live together in harmony! (Ps. 133)

Welcome to this meal, in the name of Christ. We come to share in G-d’s love.

**PEOPLE:** We come to share our food and our lives.

We come to break bread together, and open ourselves to each other.

**We come to express our faith and our thanks.**

May G-d bless this food and this fellowship.

**As we share our food, we give thanks for this abundance, and we remember those who do not have enough.**

May G-d give food to those who are hungry.

**May G-d give us a hunger for justice, and a determination to serve those who hunger for food.**

## SETTING THE TABLE

LEADER: On the table in the midst of this community with whom Christ is present we set symbols to remind us of his promises to us:

READER 1: A candle, to remind us of the way, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life".

READER 2: Bread, symbol to remind us of G\_d's love, "I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world".

**All: G-d, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share Nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed. As we live in the light of your presence. With us now, and at all times and places. Amen.**

FOOD IS SERVED. FOLKS SHARE STORIES.

(WHEN THE MEAL IS FINISHED)

## THE PEACE

LEADER: Behold, the fragments of our feast. Our meal is ended, but G-d's banquet continues as we go from this place.

PEOPLE: **Let us take the banquet into the world and never give up until all people are fed.**

LEADER: May the peace of Christ be upon you, and may you be channels of peace and justice.

ALL: **Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG: THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE  
CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE**



# THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE

*By Peter Sholtes*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
and together we'll spread the news that G-d is in our land:

Chorus

We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:

Chorus

All Praise to the Father from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit who makes us all one:

Chorus