

## St. Luke's Leeds 2024 Breaking Bread Building Community

## **Collect/Gathering Prayer**

Gracious God, we give thanks that you gather us, nourish us and shelter us.

Feed our souls by your Word, Spirit and Sacraments, and our bodies with your harvests, that we may be sustained in our ministry of gathering your people in fellowship, nourishing those who hunger, and seeking shelter for all in need; that your community of love and justice may be made real in our midst.

This we pray through Jesus Christ, who first broke bread and built community, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

## **Intercessory Prayer**

Healing and comforting Lord, we bring before you those who have asked us to pray for them. May your Spirit be upon them according to their needs, that they may know your mercy. And may your Spirit be upon us according to our gifts, that we may serve them as beloved members of our community. Amen.

## Scripture for Reflection

"Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

(Nehemiah 8:10 NRSVue)

You make grass grow for flocks and herds \* and plants to serve human beings that they may bring forth food from the earth, \* wine to gladden our hearts, oil to make a cheerful countenance, \* and bread to strengthen the heart.

(Psalm 104:14-15, ACC Inclusive Language Psalter)

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn.

(Isaiah 58:6-8a, NRSVue)

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.

There was not a needy person among them.

(Acts 4:32, 34a, NRSVue)

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