

Diocese of Boise

Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership



The Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership supports the mission of the Diocese of Boise by assisting the Bishop in carrying out his role as the chief catechist of the Diocese.

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

SACRAMENTS AND RITUALS



Kathy Barkdull, Presenter

Opening Prayer

Glorious Trinity make your presence known in this place through our worship, our prayer, the reading of your Word. Father, Son, Holy Spirit within whose unity lies all that is your perfect love, justice, peace, and power.

As we gather here today, your body, your church throughout this world, fill our outstretched hearts with your spirit.

Encircle us with your love, make yourself known to us in new ways, exciting ways, challenging ways.

Empower us, Inspire us, Glorious Trinity.

Amen

Reflection Question

What was your most meaningful celebration of the Sacraments?

Celebrating Liturgy in the Catholic Church





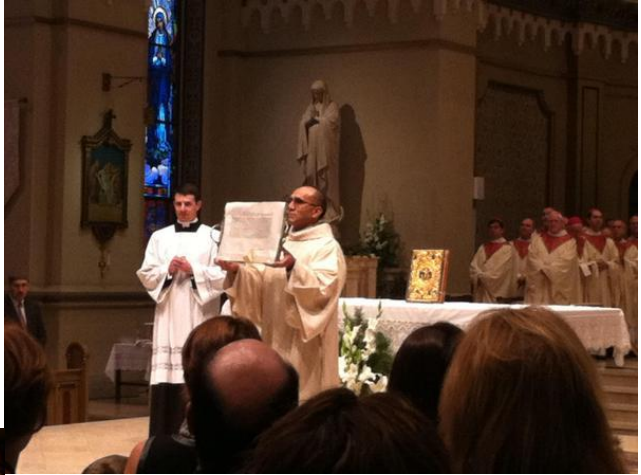
the
work
of
the
people

Liturgy

Liturgy is not just ...



AllPosters



Liturgy is

- getting our lives in order.
- receiving all that God has to offer.
- nourishing ourselves and others.
- preparation, commitment and action.

Liturgy is the Work of All the Faithful

“All the faithful should be led to full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy.”

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy



We are a *Sacramental Church*



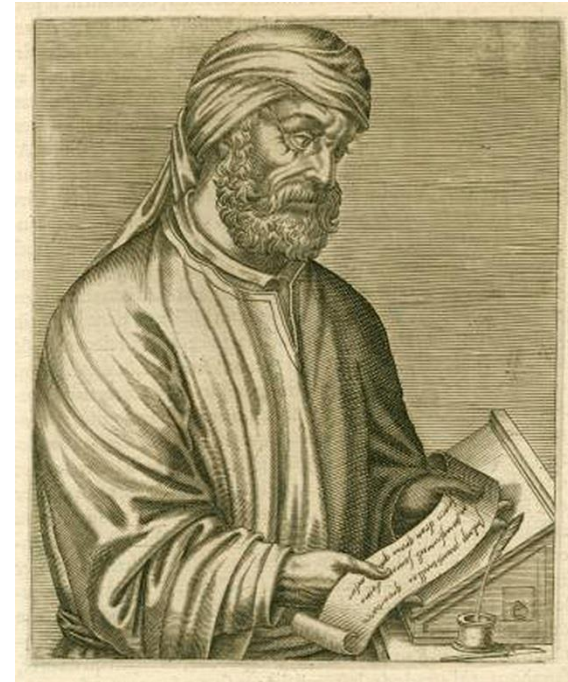


The Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

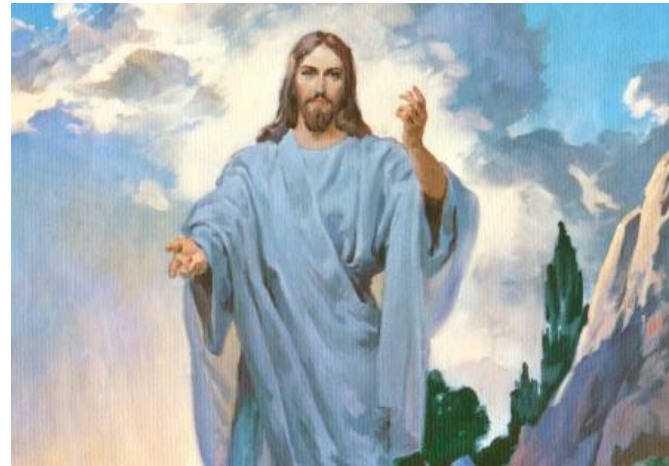
CCC 1131

Sacrament

- The word Sacrament comes from the Latin “*Sacramentum*” meaning a pledge or oath.



Sacraments are the ways and means that God communicates himself to us.

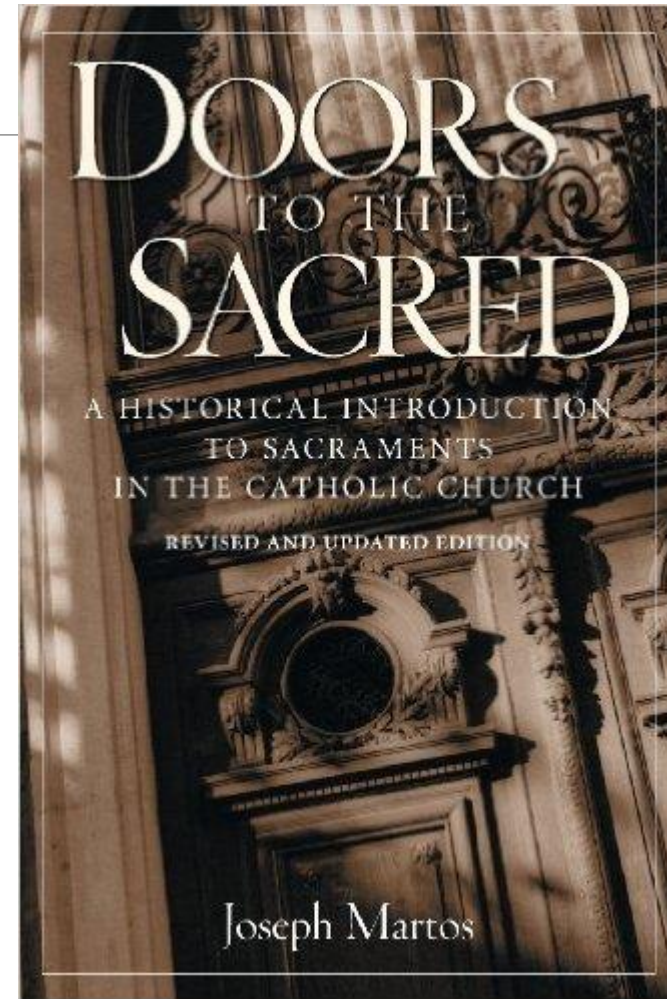


Sacraments make what we believe “more real.”

- Sacraments are earthly symbols that speak to our imaginations as much as our minds.
- Sacraments are *Actions* of the Church.
- Sacraments are the *Verbs* of our life.

Doors to the Sacred

Joseph Martos



Sacraments are....

“of the Church” in the sense that they are....

“by the Church” – the Church is the sacrament of Christ’s action at work in her through the mission of the Holy Spirit.

“for the Church” – Sacraments make the Church since they manifest and communicate the mystery of communion with God who is love.

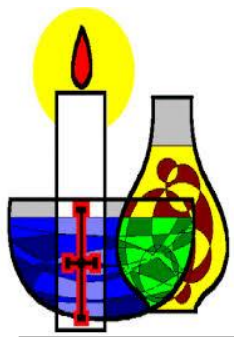
Brief History of the Sacraments

- Each Sacrament can be seen in the earliest practices of the Church and are grounded in the person of Jesus Christ.
- The Scholastic theologians in the 11th-14th centuries attempted to find in scripture where Jesus instituted each of the seven sacraments.
- Today it is less important to find out “when” but “how” Christ is the sacrament of God’s love for all humankind.
- Our understanding of what this means and our response is the work of a lifetime – the work of conversion.

Sacramental Catechesis

National Directory for Catechesis

- Integrates knowledge of the faith with living the faith.
- Trinitarian that centers on initiation into the life of the Triune God.
- Christian life as a lifelong journey.
- Appropriate to every age level, maturity, and circumstances of those catechized.
- For all members of the Christian community, takes place within the community and involves the whole community of faith (especially parents).
- Focuses on the symbols, rituals and prayers for each sacrament.
- A reflection process on the meaning of the sacrament received (*Mysagogia*).



Baptismal Catechumenate: Inspiration for All Catechesis

- Pre-Catechumenate: The initial call to conversion to Christ takes place.
- Catechumenate: Handing on of the gospels and a more integral and systematic catechesis.
- Purification and Enlightenment: Period of intense preparation for the sacraments through prayer and study of the Creed and Lord's Prayer.
- Mystagogy: Post-Sacramental catechesis of the sacraments received and integration into the life of the Christian community.

Sacraments of Initiation





Baptism

“Baptism is birth into the new life of Christ. In accordance with the Lord’s will, it is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism.” (CCC 1277)

“You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Col 2:12)



The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus.

The waters of baptism did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. *“He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake...to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.”* (St. Gregory Nazianzen)



*Go therefore
and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit*

Matthew 28:19 (NRSV)

The Ritual of Baptism

- The Sign of the Cross.
- Reading from Scripture.
- Exorcism and Anointing with oil.
- Blessing the Baptismal Water.
- Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith.
- Pouring or immersion with water three times.
- Anointing with Sacred Chrism.
- Reception of the white garment and the candle.

The Symbols of Baptism



The Effects of Baptism

- Original Sin and all personal sins committed, and temporal punishment due to sin is removed.
- Baptism gives us new life as adopted children of God.
- Become members of the Church, the Body of Christ.
- Provides a common foundation among all Christians.
- Seals the Christian with an indelible spiritual character of belonging to Christ that not even sin can erase.



Confirmation

- The reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.
- *“The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.”*
Isaiah 11: 2-3
- *“...he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit”.”*



Thomas Aquinas

Baptism is a “passive” power (the power to receive other sacraments).

Confirmation is an “active” power (the power to witness to the faith in the world).

Ritual for Confirmation

- The Bishop extending his two hands over those to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Prayer asking God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit.

(Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord, Wisdom, Counsel, Understanding and Fortitude)

- Anointing with Chrism on the forehead.
- The words: “Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit”

Symbols for Confirmation



Effects of Confirmation

- An increase and deepening of baptismal grace.
- Roots us more deeply in our relationship with God.
- Unites us more firmly to Christ.
- Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.
- Renders our bond with the Church more perfect.
- Gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith.



Eucharist



Ritual for Eucharist

- The Mass.

- We gather on Sunday.
- We hear from the accounts of the apostles and the prophets.
- The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the table.
- The gifts are blessed and consecrated becoming the Body and Blood of Christ.
- We are offered the Host with the words: “The Body of Christ”
- We respond: “Amen”
- We are offered the Cup with the words: “The Blood of Christ”
- We respond: “Amen”

Symbols of Eucharist



© AP/Getty

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

- We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently.
- Fast for one hour prior to receiving Communion.
- Conscious of no grave sin before receiving Communion.
- A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive Communion without prior sacramental confession except for grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession.
- If confession is not possible, the person is to make an act of perfect contrition and commit to confessing as soon as possible.

Effects of Eucharist

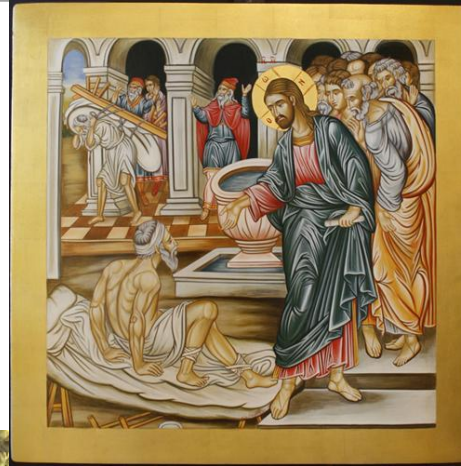
- Union with our Lord.
- An increase in Sanctifying Grace.
- Forgiveness of Venial sins and the grace to resist entering into Mortal sin.

Sacraments of Healing





Reconciliation



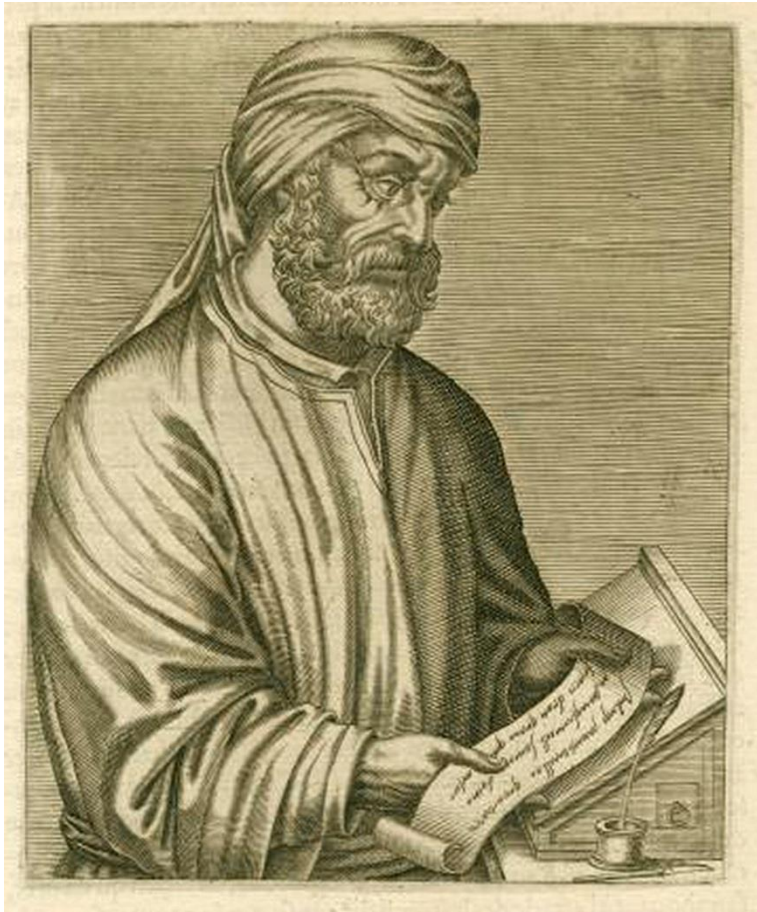
“As the Father has sent me, so I send you...Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.

John 20:21-23

Reconciliation: A Conversion of Heart



A Brief History of Reconciliation



The Ritual of Reconciliation

- Contrition for our sins.
- Confession of our sins.
- Act of Contrition
- Absolution from the priest:

“God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself, and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

- Acts of Penance.

Three Rites of Reconciliation

Individual

Communal Reconciliation with Confession and Absolution

General Confession and Absolution

The Symbols of Reconciliation



The Effects of Reconciliation

- Reconciliation with God through the forgiveness of sins.
- Restores us to God's grace.
- Reconciliation with the Church.
- The merciful judgement of God that enables our continued conversion of faith.



Anointing of the Sick

“Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.”

Letter of St. James

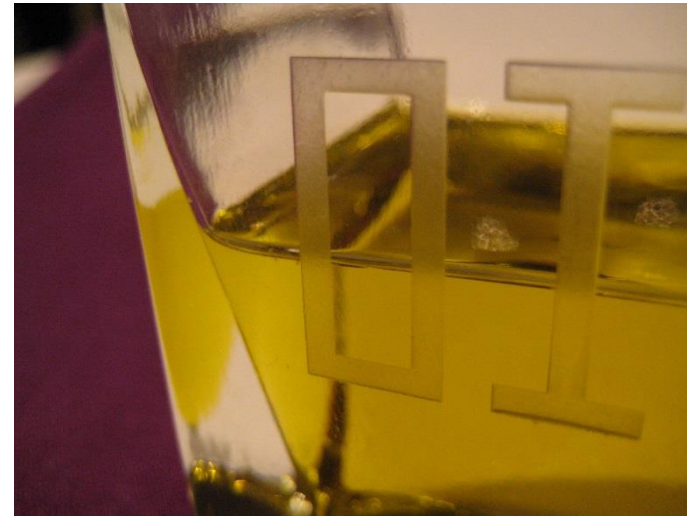
A Brief History of Anointing of the Sick



The Ritual of Anointing of the Sick

- Only bishops and priests may be ministers of the sacrament.
- A penitential rite followed by the Liturgy of the Word.
- Laying on of hands by the bishop or priest.
- Anointing with the blessed Oil of the Sick on the forehead and hands accompanied by these words: “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”
- If the recipient of the sacrament is able, Communion, also known as *Viaticum*, may be given.

The Symbols of Anointing of the Sick



The Effects of Anointing of the Sick

- A spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage.
- Allows the recipient to be united with Christ's passion and participate in the saving work of Jesus.
- Forgiveness of sin and the grace to avoid further temptation.
- Prepares us for our final journey when we depart from this life.

Sacraments at the Service of Communion





Holy Orders



The Ritual of Holy Orders

- The men to be ordained are called forward.
- They express their promise to accept the responsibilities of ordination.
- The ordinands prostrates himself as a symbol of his unworthiness.
- The Bishop lays hands on the head of those to be ordained.
- The reception of a stole and chasuble.
- Anointing of the hands with Chrism by the Bishop.
- The reception of a chalice and paten.

Symbols of Holy Orders



Effects of Holy Orders

- Configures the recipient to Christ by special grace of the Holy Spirit so he may serve as an instrument for his Church.
- Enables him to act as a representative of Christ.
- As in Baptism and Confirmation, Holy Orders confers an indelible spiritual character that cannot be repeated.



Marriage

“The vocation of marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone through the centuries in different cultures, social structures and spiritual attitudes.

CCC 1603

Brief History of Marriage

- There was no “sacrament” of Marriage between Christians in the early Church.
- Liturgical blessings or having a minister present did not exist before the 4th century.
- The Church became involved in the celebration of marriage when it began to have a significant influence in the secular world.
- Our modern understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage has moved away from the marriage relationship as a contract to a biblical notion of covenant.

The Ritual of Marriage

- According to the Latin tradition, the spouses as ministers of Christ's grace mutually confer upon each other the sacrament of marriage by expressing their consent before the Church.
- The priest or deacon invites the couple to exchange their consent in the presence of the Church's ministers, two witnesses and the congregation.
- Rings are blessed and exchanged.

Symbols of Marriage



Effects of Marriage

- The gift of the bond between spouses.
- The grace of the sacrament perfects the love of husband and wife, binds them together in fidelity, and helps them welcome and care for children.

The Minister of Sacraments

- The ordained have a unique function in the celebration of liturgy and the sacraments.

CCC 1142: “These servants are chosen and consecrated by the sacrament of Holy Orders, by which the Holy Spirit enables them to act in the person of Christ the head, for the service of all the members of the Church.”

- The Minister does not have to know everything about the theology of the liturgy or sacrament but must believe every aspect of the Church’s teachings.
- Although the Minister should be in a “state of grace,” the liturgy or sacrament would still be valid even if the Minister is in the state of mortal sin.

As Recipients of The Sacraments

- We do not have to understand everything about the history and theology of liturgy and the sacraments, just a basic understanding about what the sacrament does.
- We do need to approach the sacraments of our own free will.
- Exceptions: the Baptism of infants and Anointing of the Sick when the person is unconscious.
- Even human inability to understand, does not prevent God from offering us grace and love.

Sacraments confer grace

God “places” grace in the sacraments, and the sacraments make that grace available to us. Thomas Aquinas

The celebration of the sacraments reminds God of his love for humankind and gives grace to those who directly ask for it.

By celebrating the sacraments, people become disposed (their hearts are open) to receive grace.

Sacramental grace is a gift



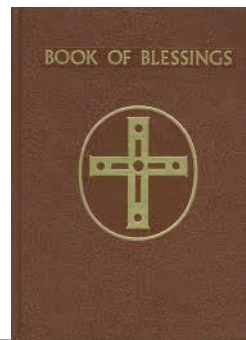
We receive Grace only as we receive a gift, not something we deserve or earn.

The gift of Grace is accompanied by the responsibility of responding to that Grace.

Sacramentals



Blessings



-
- Among sacramentals, blessings hold a special place.
 - There are blessings for persons, meals, objects, places, and special occasions.
 - All blessings praise God for his gifts.
 - Most blessings invoke the Holy Trinity, sometimes accompanied with the sprinkling of Holy Water.
 - Making the Sign of the Cross, morning and evening prayers, prayer before meals.

Conclusion

- Liturgy is the most important work of the Church and for the Church.
- Sacraments are not abstract Catholic concepts but earthly symbols that speak to our imaginations as well as our minds.
- Grace that is received through the sacraments is a gift, freely given by God.
- The Sacraments are essential markers, key orientations, and spiritual resources that show Christians how to respond to God's love.
- Liturgy and Sacraments are the verbs in our Christian life, prayer and work.
- Liturgy and Sacraments are the Church in action in the lives of her members for the benefit of all.

Reflection Questions

What can we do as catechists to promote the understanding that the Liturgy is the “Work” of all the faithful?

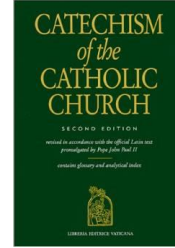
How do we instill in our students that Sacraments are “doors to the sacred” that lead us to holiness?

How could the “baptismal catechumenate” be incorporated into every catechetical lesson?

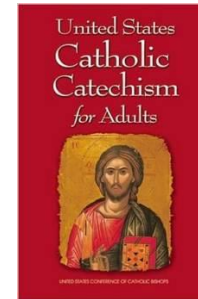
What does the statement, “the more we receive grace the more we are able to respond” mean to you?

Liturgy and Sacraments Resources

2nd Edition of Catholic Catechism, 2000



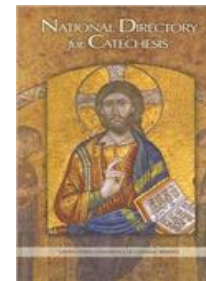
United States Catechism for Adults, 2006



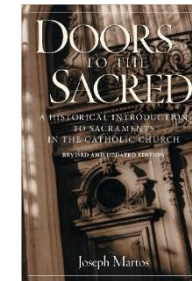
Sacramental Theology: Means of Grace, Ways of Life, Loyola Press, 2002



National Directory for Catechesis – 1979 Revised in 2003



Doors of the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to the Sacraments in the Catholic Church – Joseph Martos



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Closing prayer

We gather Lord God as your people to offer you
our sacrifice of prayer and worship.

We are fed on your Word, refreshed through your living
water, feel the encircling of your Spirit around this
community of faith and around our individual lives.

As we go from our places of worship, may we continue to
know your presence and power in the very different lives
that we lead.

To your praise and glory.

Amen.

