

TABLE LITURGY | advent 23

before food

reading: 1 corinthians 1:3 - 9

Leader:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind--just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

food

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Leader:

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader:

God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader:

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader:

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

reflect: individual examen

(With or without background music)

As you reflect over the last week, month or year:

- *How have you experienced God's goodness and nearness?*
- *What has troubled or challenged you?*
- *Have you noticed God's presence in any of this?*
- *As you look ahead to tomorrow, what do you need from God to*

share

Invite people to share a passage of Scripture that has meant something important to them in the last year.

prayer

Invite 2-3 people to lead in prayer

poem

Reader: May the tears we cry today
water the seeds
For a new world tomorrow

May our sorrow
Be the soil
From which liberation sprouts

(Drew Jackson)

collect

Leader: Stir up your power, O God,
and come among us.
Heal our wounds,
calm our fears
and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer.

blessing

**All: Restore us again, O God of hosts;
show us the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.**

closing prayer

**All: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you
through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be
kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one
who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. Amen.**