

# ***Bread Breaking Prayers***

## **Maranatha**

Now let us break the bread of life in a sharing of communion and God's community.

As we break bread together,  
we remember the Revelation of John  
and the words of Jesus to us:

"Here I stand knocking at the door,  
if anyone hears my voice and opens the door,  
I will come in and sit down to supper with him  
And he with me."

Let us share this meal with hearts unlocked,  
Remembering the words of Jesus:

"I shall indeed be with you soon."

And let us answer, "Amen, come, Lord Jesus!"

## **Sign of Oneness**

On a hillside in Galilee,  
Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it,  
and gave it to his followers.  
We in like manner, break this  
as a sign of our oneness, as a sign of our desire  
to share in God's heavenly banquet.

## **Eternal Life**

The bread that sustains our life is Christ.  
He is the food that assures our salvation.  
"I myself am the living bread come down from heaven.  
If anyone eats of this bread of mine, they shall live forever."  
In the eating of this blessed bread broken for all, old and young,  
Rich and poor, there is eternal life.  
Welcome to his table.

## **Broken Bread**

Bread broken: one loaf but many pieces, a meal for us.  
Bread broken: divided that we might share it,  
wholeness destroyed that we might be joined together.  
Bread broken: a sign of Christ's body,  
broken for us that we might live.

## **Blessed and Broken People**

May we become as this blessed bread, a blessed people,  
blessed and broken in the love and care of one another.  
We who eat of the same bread, even though varied and different  
like its many grains of wheat, are one in the body of Christ.

## **Manna**

Yahweh, you once fed your people manna in the desert.  
You now feed us with this bread of life.  
May its many pieces broken from one loaf  
be a reminder that we are a community of believers  
dedicated to the service of one another.

## **Life and Spirit**

The early Christians recognized  
The life and spirit of Jesus  
In the breaking of the bread.  
In the tradition of their faith  
And in imitation of their love,  
We break this blessed bread,  
Recalling that at the Last Supper,  
Jesus gave his body and blood to his friends  
As a sign of oneness with them.

## **We Thank You Most Holy God**

We thank you, most holy God,  
for the gifts of life and love and laughter,  
for time to grow and strength to do.  
We thank you for all the good things of this earth,  
and for the chance to know and love you, through Jesus.  
We remember Jesus - our friend and brother.  
We remember how he loved us to the end.  
We remember how on the night before he died,  
he called his friends together for a final meal.  
As he did then, so he does now.  
He opens his heart, to them and us.  
He gives himself totally, for them and us,  
in Word and sacrament,  
through suffering and death,  
and by rising from the dead,  
to live with you, great God of all.  
Pour out your Spirit upon us, God,  
your rescuing, reclaiming, renewing Spirit,  
joining us together in your community of love. Hand touching hand.  
Heart linked to heart.  
Each person connected with each person,  
in generous service to one another,  
the very bonding of Christ's love.  
Keep all who share in the bond of Christ,  
united in truth and love.  
Make of us a community of life-giving power,  
a sign to all people  
of your compassionate care.  
We make our prayer in and through  
the heart and Spirit of Christ.

## **Breaking Bread Together**

Creator of all that has life, look upon us who have formed this circle of love. Our love is first an offering of ourselves and then an offering of all those others who have touched our experience and have formed us into who we are today.

Accept this bread as a symbol of our fidelity to you as you offer yourself to each one of us. Keep reminding us that to break bread together is to share in each other's blessings and is to say yes to each other's fate.

We offer you our thanks in this bread. Thanks for your love, for the love of our families and our Emmaus community. Together, we recognize and accept our right and responsibility to bless this bread, which symbolizes all of humanity in the person of Jesus Christ.

In turn, we accept the gift of yourself to us. For to break bread with one another is to share each other's blessings and is to say yes to each other's fate.

Through Jesus, who offers himself to us in total fidelity and love, with Jesus, in thanksgiving for our personhood, and in Jesus who has blessed us with all of creation.

Source: Ellen Smith, R.S.M., 1999

## **On This Day**

On this day of the Savior, all creation is renewed in your friendship. We break bread and bless this wine as a sign of our oneness, and as a sign of our desire to be imitators of your love which has made us members of one community - the body of Jesus.

## **O Wisdom**

O Wisdom, with graciousness and care, you prepare a rich banquet for us.  
In your abundant love, all people are most welcome to come and dine.  
When Jesus was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.  
And their eyes were opened and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

## **Blessed People**

May we continue to be as this blessed bread, a blessed people, blessed and broken in the love and care of one another. We who eat of the same bread, even though varied and different like its many grains of wheat~ are one in the body of Christ.

## **I Am the Bread of Life**

Christ has said to us:  
I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall not hunger.  
You who believe in me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to me, unless I, Yahweh, draw them.  
The bread that I give is my flesh.  
You who eat this bread shall live forever.  
Unless you eat this bread and drink this blood,  
you shall not have life in you.  
I am the resurrection, I am the life.  
You who believe in me shall live forever.

Yes, I believe that you are the God I am seeking.  
Yes, I believe that you are the God of my dreams.  
Yes, I believe that you are my God, and that you  
will raise me up on the last day.

## **Blessed Be You**

Blessed be you, our God, Mother – Father – Holy One, for from the beginning, you create all things and by your power, keep all things in being. Wonderful are you, O God, mighty in word and deed, marvelous in tender concern, for your love is so deep, so rich, so full, that though we stumble, you bend to pick us up. And, when we have lost our way, you do not abandon us. But again and again, you call and search and carry us back to you. Praised be you, O God, abiding Mercy, Living One, fulfillment of our greatest hopes, and deepest dreams.

We thank you, great and gracious God, for the wonder of your world. For the gifts of time and energy, for family support and the encouragement of friends. We thank you, holy and Living God for insight and courage, for hope and new beginnings, for strength to carry on when life is hard. We thank you, tender and merciful God for forgiving our sins, for sharing your vision with us, for asking us to partner you in your enterprise of love. We thank you, beloved and faithful God, for the gift of Jesus, your Anointed One. Jesus, who shows us who you are, and who we are and what you want us to be about. Marvelous is the work you did in Jesus. Marvelous is the work you do in us. Marvelous is the work you call us to do. We remember the gift that Jesus gave. We remember how he gathered with his friends, for a final meal on the night before he died. He broke the bread and passed the cup and proclaimed it an everlasting sign of his friendship and love.

As he did then, so he does now, in bread broken and, in love given to one another. This is the everlasting sign of your abiding mercy and friendship, the source of our life in you, and the way all life is taken up in you, through the life and death and rising of Jesus. So, remembering Jesus and united with him, we offer you our own struggling attempts to be your faithful sons and daughters. May Jesus make us worthy of you, honoring you and giving you glory. Bring all of us at last, into the light of your friendship. Bring to fulfillment the gift – and mystery you have promised. Amen

## Love

Leader: With hearts full of gratitude and praise we raise our voices to you, God of unending love, for your kindness is everlasting.

**ALL: Your mighty wind swept over the waters; into the night your voice called forth the light of day. Day after day you form, with a potter's care, a world in which all creation shows forth the wonder of your love for us. All the earth is ablaze with your glory! All that lives and breathes joins in a dance of life and hope!**

Leader: You are holy, God of life and blessing, and from you flows the light of Christ which surrounds us, the love which enfolds us, the power which protects us, and the presence which watches over us.

**ALL: We rejoice and are glad to share in your reign. No longer do we fear the terror of the night, nor the arrows of hatred and rejection that fly by day, for in you we have discovered safety as your beloved daughters and sons. May your Spirit overflow into our midst once more, O God, that we who seek peace might behold the wondrous mystery we receive at your table: the bread of unity, the cup of love.**

Leader: On the night before he died, Jesus and his friends reclined at table. Jesus took the bread, blessed you, God, for your goodness, and invited those in hunger and need to come, to eat, and to share. At the end of the meal, Jesus lifted the cup of wine up to you and asked them to drink it in remembrance of him which we do today.

**ALL: Loving God, may this meal we share in Jesus' name bring us all to shine like the sun, so that this world might grow in justice and peace. In that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, language, and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus, our brother.**



## Our Daily Bread

Leader: This bread which we break is the new manna in the desert. It nourishes and sustains us on our journey to Emmaus. Though death stalks us like a lion or despair like a wolf, still this bread of life will be ours to bless, break and share. Let us pray to the Creator: Give us this day our daily bread.

**ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: When we are led into the desert, and our spirits wither like grass

**ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: When the fire of love dies down within us, and ashes threaten to choke our souls

**ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: When we forget your promise, God, and hope vanishes like smoke.

**ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: When we taste the ashes of sorrow and forget the bread of life

**ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: When we are tempted to turn our faces and look away from brothers and sisters in need

**ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: When we drift from this table of fellowship and starve in the desert of selfishness

**ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: This bread symbolizes the hope and the help that is always available in the Emmaus Community. Let us now break this bread of life and hope in a sharing of community with our Savior. As we break bread together we recall the words of the Savior to us: "Here I stand knocking at the door, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in and sit down to supper with them, and they with me."

**ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.**

### **We Pray Then**

We pray then, good and gracious God  
that we might recognize you in this breaking of bread today.

It is the bread of heaven  
the bread of the poor,  
the bread of our lives.

May we recognize you  
every time we join someone on a journey,  
every time we share a meal,  
every time we take bread into our hands.

And may this recognition call forth such a joy in us that we  
might never lose sight of your goodness.

May it inspire such love in us that our hearts  
might continue to burn within us, keeping alive your memory  
and your promise.

And may it provoke such a longing for truth in us  
that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth experiences  
your justice and your peace.

Let us share this bread and wine as Jesus taught us,  
knowing that our lives are forever changed by this and every breaking of  
bread.

