

## **THE TIMELESS MEAL: EUCHARIST for the CONGREGATION of ALLOGENES**

Have everyone sit at a table/altar so there are clear left and right sides.

Before you start, you may want to explain to those who might be unfamiliar what you are going to do, and how they will participate. (Print a copy of the service for each participant who can read.)

Appropriately, place a loaf of bread, a carafe of wine, and any other food you may choose to share. (Note: early Christian communities might have included cheese, olives, and other food, and had a filling meal -- for the poorer members of these communities, this might be the best meal they got all week.)

### **PRELUDE:**

Silence, or meditative music, ending with the ringing of a meditation bell.

A candle is lit, as we anticipate the invocation of Light.

### **OPENING WORDS:**

We know the spirit gives us birth. "It is the ones who have gone astray that the spirit gave birth to. Moreover, they go astray because of the spirit. Thus from one and the same spirit the fire is kindled and quenched."

(fr. Gospel According to Philip #33 Layton)

### **SONG:**

All stand (as you are able).

Sing together "Gathered Here," Music provided as separate sheet of paper. Or use any suitable song or music.

### **INVOCATION:**

All remain standing.

Right side of the table:

Spirit of Sophia, Eternal Logos, Way of Love,

Left side of the table:

We come to this table  
to partake of your presence  
through the fruits of the earth.

Right:

Spirit of Sophia, Eternal Logos, Way of Love,

Left:

Fill our emptiness when we hunger,  
and by your grace, let us be servants of one another,  
bringers of peace to all the earth.

All:

Amen.

All are seated.

The meditation bell is rung.

### **PRAYER:**

All may say this together:

I have been apart and I have lost my way  
The archons have taken my vision.  
At times I am filled with Thee,  
but often I am blind to Thy Presence

when all I see is the world of form.  
My ignorance and blindness are all I have to offer  
But these I give to Thee, holding back nothing  
And in my hours of darkness  
when I am not sure there even is a Thou, hearing my call  
I still call to Thee with all my heart.  
Hear the cry of my voice, clamoring from this desert,  
for my soul is parched and my heart can barely stand this  
longing  
(Bishop +Rosamonde Miller; after Stratford DP p.36)

**SILENCE FOR A TIME.**

**HEALING PRAYER:**

The leader of the service may say this:

The rabbi Jesus of Nazareth once said:  
"You have heard it said:  
"Love your friends and hate your enemies.'  
"But I tell you instead,  
"Love your friends and your enemies,  
"pray for those who persecute you."  
(freely adapted from Matthew 5.43-44)

**PEACE GREETING:**

A time to greet those at the table in peace, with a handclasp, words, or a hug, as appropriate.

The meditation bell is rung again.

**OFFERTORY:**

Leader:

Let us give together that we may rejoice in the common life our gifts sustain.  
Here everyone brings the bread, the wine (and other food) to the table.

**THANKSGIVING:**

Leader:

We gather at this table to celebrate our community, and our communion with sacred  
sun and soil, and the Holy Wisdom which sustains us all.  
We share this food and drink as a sign of our covenant with all humanity, as a symbol  
of our commitment to live in peace with all beings.  
We give thanks for sun and moon, dark night and day, rain and clouds, fertile field  
and sky, springtime and harvest, growth and rest.

Leader raises up the loaf of bread and the carafe of wine.

Holy art Thou, that art, the Universal Fullness  
Holy art Thou, that art, the self-perfecting Will  
Holy art Thou, that art, who wills to be known and is known  
Holy art Thou, that art, the self-making Word  
Holy art Thou, more powerful than all power  
Holy art Thou, transcending all  
Holy art Thou, better than all praise  
Accept our mind's offerings pure from soul and heart stretched up to Thee,  
O Thou Unspeakable and Unutterable who Name is in Silence.  
For this I bear witness; I go to Life and Light  
--(The Shepherd)

All:

Amen!

The bread is passed around the table, and everyone breaks off a piece. The leader pours the wine as someone else reads:

We break this bread and share this wine together.  
We are all one bread, all one body, with all humanity.  
The blood of life flows through all of us, through all humanity.  
When the bodies of others are broken, we are broken.  
When the blood of others is spilled, our blood is spilled.  
When the food has been shared equally, all say together:  
The gifts of the earth for the people of the earth!  
Therefore we covenant with one another  
To practice peace, so that no blood is spilled, no bodies are broken,  
And all the people of the world can dance on this earth beneath the sun, eating their  
bread with joy,  
And drinking with as merry a heart as we do now.  
One day there shall be peace!  
One day all shall rejoice!

All partake of the food together.

**CLOSING WORDS:**

All:

The feast is ended, we depart in peace.  
Remember the words we have said and the meal we have shared.  
The work of the world lies before us.  
Accomplish justice, with grace.  
Amen.

The meditation bell is rung for the last time.  
The flame is extinguished.

**POSTLUDE:**

There may be quiet music while all help clear the table.

- Abraxas007