

A FRANCISCAN AGAPE FEAST: Adapted

CALL TO THE FEAST

All: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

(You may begin by singing a song together.)

Youngest: Out of darkness came light **All: and the power of God was revealed:**

Men: in the running wave and the flowing air,

Women: in the quiet earth and the shining stars.

Eldest: Out of the dust came life, **All: and the Image of God was revealed**

Men: in the human face and the gentle heart,

Women: in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul

Youngest: out of justice came freedom. **All: The Wisdom which is God was revealed:**

Men: in the need to grow and the will to love,

Women: in the chance to know and the power to choose.

Eldest: Then God looked at the creation, **All: Behold, it was very good.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Youngest: Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, **All: how can we season it?**

Eldest: Giving God, you blessed us with saltiness, **All: but we became bland.**

Youngest: You trusted us with your Word, **All: but we did not keep it.**

Eldest: You lit a flame in our midst, **All: but we hid it under formality,
and smothered it with our fears.**

Youngest: God, in your mercy: **All: Forgive us.**

(pause) *(silence)*

Eldest: Forgiving God, we believe that you have called us. **All: to be salt and light;**

Youngest: that you offer us time and space and strength **All: to begin again.**

(pause) *(silence)*

Eldest: Giving and forgiving God, **All: We thank you.**

Youngest: Have salt in yourself, and **All: be at peace with each other.**

READING FOR THE DAY:

Click on [Readings for Pentecost](#). Each of the Readings can be read or simply choose one of the two or three to read. While someone reads the Scriptures, listen well.

After the reading, share your impressions of the reading(s) with each other:

- ✓ *What word, phrase or idea expressed in the reading(s) impressed you? Why/because?*
- ✓ *Paul writes, in the 2nd Reading, about our having different gifts but the same Spirit, different ways to serve but one “Lord,” and different ways to do things but one goal.*
 - *What are the gifts of the people you “sit with” today? What service do you appreciate from each of them? What have you discovered by the way they do what they do?*
 - *What is our goal – as one body? How can we work toward that without division?*
 - *If there are people on the “outside,” how can our gifts serve the work of bringing them in?*
- ✓ *Talk of a time when you have been afraid, but felt, “I got this!”, and found a way through? If you were physically alone, from where did you get the sense of confidence to “get through”?*

>>Continue>>

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- ✓ *In the Gospel, Jesus offers Peace to the disciples. Is the Peace that Jesus gives more a sense of “everything is fine,” or of “personal, interior balance”?*
- ✓ *Jesus, in this Gospel, connects the Peace we receive to the ability of Judgement – Forgiving or not Forgiving. There is a Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana. The couple who founded it were survivors of the Holocaust in WW II. A saying of one of the founders is, “FORGIVENESS IS A SEED FOR PEACE.” Which describes achieving Peace better: “a snap of the finger,” or working/struggling to “balance one’s ‘attitude’”? Would you explain?*
- ✓ *Which heals our inner hurts better: Forgiveness or Unforgiveness? How is that possible?*

SHARING THE FEAST

Youngest: We are all invited to our common table to share in this Agape Feast.

Eldest: At this table we come as sisters and brothers as One Family in God.

Youngest (shouts): TASTE AND SEE THAT GOD IS GOOD!

The feast can be a meal or a simple loaf of bread (rice-cakes, chapati, naan, pita, tortilla, baguette, etc.) and a glass/cup (or individual glasses) of (wine, water, cider, grape juice). The bread and the wine are passed to one another. Each person serving the individual next to him or her.

PRAYER

(at the conclusion of each one drinking and eating)

Eldest: As we share this bread (/meal), as we drink this (*wine, water, ...*) we thank you, Creator, for our daily bread, for the food which delights and nourishes us and for the companionship that sustains us as [*a family, friends, coworkers, Franciscans, etc.*].

Youngest: We thank you, too, for (*wine, water, juice, or ...*) to quench our thirst and for the Living Water with which you surprise, enrich and transform our lives.

All: We give thanks for this feast at which we all can share, but a taste of your Holy Realm. Amen.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Eldest: Source of Life, Loving Creator; you cherish Creation and: **All: We thank you.**

Youngest: With earth, air, water, fire: in our element as your children: **All: We praise you.**

Eldest: With our lips, lives and diversity, each made in your image: **All: We honor you.**

Youngest: Jesus, you came to share our human lives, our sorrow and joy: **All: We are humbled in you.**

Eldest: Your Spirit works today: encouraging, enabling, surprising us: **All: You warm us.**

Youngest: Poor as we are: **All: You give us hope.**

Eldest: Salt of the earth, you give us meaning and purpose and **All: We praise you.**

All: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

(You may end by singing a song together.)

Dessert?

Excerpts taken from:

<https://www.ofsusaecumenicalinterfaith.org/agape-celebration>