



## Reclaiming Our Own Power and Dignity

*Sharing of the Liturgical Practice of Vake Church Resource Centre against Sexual Abuse*

Evening prayer with Eucharist

L: Liturgical leader

A: All

### Words of Entry

L: In the name of the Creator, the Liberator, and the Giver of Life.

A place has been prepared for us.

Here we can be, with our joy and our pain, with our faith and our longing.

Let us be together here.

(Silence)

A: To you God, we come  
with all the burdens we carry  
and we leave them with you.

### Singing 'Kyrie eleison'

L: Jesus says: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11,28)

### Readings

### Meditation

### Hymn

### Creed

L: Everything that happens touches God.  
Our lives concern God.  
Let us therefore share our faith.

A: I believe in a God who meets us.  
I believe in a God who endures seing, hearing and knowing.  
I believe in Jesus, who was exposed to assault and betrayal.  
I believe in Jesus, who shares with us his victory over evil and death.  
I believe in The Holy Spirit, who hopes for us when we no longer hope.  
I believe in The Holy Spirit, who sets us free to act and to rest.  
We believe the Church needs to hear our voices.  
We believe that the Church will fight injustice.

L: God creates new possibilities  
to experience love, respect and care.

(Singing:) This is our hope, we believe in you.

### **Lighting of candles**

L: Here are candles. Here are colours.  
We can shape our candles and light them from the Christ-candle,  
or we can light the candle just as it is.  
Through the candles we can let ourselves be seen,  
and also that which we bring before God.  
We shape and light candles.

L: Good God, you see our candles  
and you hear our prayers.

A: You know our sorrows and our joys,  
our shame and our dignity.  
You weep with us, you fight our fight,  
and you strengthen and support us when we struggle.

L: Be near to all who suffer in our own and in other countries.  
Comfort and give hope to all who endure injustice and distress.  
Create peace in the world and in our hearts.

A: Help us as we strive to take care of your creation. Let us live in peaceful justice. Teach us to see  
ourselves and each others with your eyes;  
as precious treasures, forever loved. Amen.

(Singing:)

God, hear our words, see our lives, turn to us.

God, see our lives, turn towards us.

### **Communion Hymn**

Meal – Blessed bread for the road

L: Listen to what the 1st Book of Kings says about Elijah in the desert:

*"Elijah went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.*

*The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled until he reached the mountain of God."*

(1 Kings 19,3-8)

### **Consecration**

#### **The Lords Prayer**

#### **The meal**

L: Just like Elijah and the disciples received,  
we can also receive.

Here is bread.

Here is wine.

Take it, in Jesus' name,  
the bread and wine that gives courage and strength.

Words at the distribution

Blessed bread in Jesus' name.

Blessed wine in Jesus' name.

#### **Thanksgiving**

A: Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for the communion gifts, the bread and wine that gives courage and strength. Keep alive in us the hope of life and justice.

Amen.

#### **Act of dignity Sharing pearls**

L: Listen to the prophet Isaiah:

*I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness--secret riches. I am the Lord, the one who calls you by name.*

(Isaiah 45,3)

L: Here is a collection of treasures, many kinds of pearls.

What creates the pearl is something alien and irritating, something that the mussel wants to push away. But every pearl is created in darkness and becomes a pearl in the closed mussel. When the pearl is found it has become a treasure. When the light shines on the pearls they reflect God's heaven. It is a symbol of liberation, freedom and dignity.

L: We send forward a box with many kinds of pearls.

Choose the pearl you want and then give the box to the person next to you. *(Adapt text if pearls are kept in baptismal font).*

### **Words of distribution:**

I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness.

### **Benediction**

L: Receive the blessing.

The God who embraces us  
with love, care and respect,

The God who has given us  
bread and wine in Jesus' name -

This God bless us this night and forever more.

Amen.

### **Hymn**

### **Sending**

L: Go with courage and strength, with hope and dignity.