



A Reflection Resource for Liturgy Committees: Fit for Mission

As members of the liturgy committee our goal should be to ensure that the assembly is led to full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. At the same time we need to take care that we do not become an inward looking group, a group with 'insider' knowledge, concerned only with the rubrics, with 'the way we have always done things', blind to our mission of preparing parish liturgies that will 'fit' the assembly 'for their mission' of full, conscious, and active participation in bringing the good news to a world that thirsts for Christ.

Psalm 96

*(prayed responsorially, or alternatively sing Psalm 98,
Sing a New Song, Dan Schutte - see back of this leaflet)*

Call

O sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
Declare his glory among the nations,

Response

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth
Tell of his salvation from day to day
His marvellous works among all the
peoples*

For great is the Lord,

And greatly to be praised;

Worship the Lord in holy splendour
Let the heavens be glad,
Let the sea roar,
Let the field exult,

*Tremble before him, all the earth.
And let the earth rejoice;
And all that fills it;
and everything in it.*



All: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
Before the Lord, for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Scripture reading: Luke 22:7-20

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.' They asked him, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for it?' 'Listen,' he said to them, 'when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, "The teacher asks you, 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' " He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.' So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'

Reflection Points: *(Discuss just one or two of the following points)*

1. "Go and prepare". Jesus chose Peter and John to go ahead and prepare the upstairs room. They did not have to rely solely on their own capabilities. There would be someone to guide them. Do you feel chosen for this work? Do you trust that help and guidance will be given?
2. "And they prepared". Are you conscious of the beauty of the liturgy as you prepare? — of allowing the beauty of the liturgy to touch those gathered so that they experience a sense of the sacred?
3. "A man carrying a jar of water". Perhaps water for the washing of feet (John's Gospel). As Pope Francis reminds us "Washing feet means: 'I am at your service.' And with us too don't we have to wash each other's feet day after day?" What does this mean for our work of preparing for liturgy?
4. "Take this and divide it among yourselves". Jesus *took his place at the table* and, as host of that Passover meal, he offered his disciples the hospitality of God. Through the celebration of the Eucharist we sacramentally continue that hospitality down the ages. Do our prayers of intercession, our songs, and the homily call us to share hospitality in our daily lives? Do they call us to 'Mission'?
5. "The new covenant in my blood." Jesus' blood will be poured out in death so that others may enter the new covenant of life promised by Jeremiah: 'I will be their God, and they

shall be my people.’ (Jer.31:33). As a committee, do we have awareness that our liturgies should lead people to new life in Christ?

6. “Until the kingdom of God comes”. The Mass calls us all to Mission: ‘Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.’ Do our announcements at the end of Mass focus us on Mission, on bringing about the kingdom of God? Are they related to the call of the Gospel of that Sunday?

Pope Frances says:

In some people we see an ostentatious preoccupation for the **liturgy**, for doctrine and for the Church’s prestige, but without any concern that the Gospel have a real impact on God’s faithful people and the concrete needs of the present time. In this way, the life of the Church turns into a museum piece or something which is the property of a select few. . . . The mark of Christ, incarnate, crucified and risen, is not present; closed and elite groups are formed, and no effort is made to go forth and seek out those who are distant or the immense multitudes who thirst for Christ. Evangelical fervour is replaced by the empty pleasure of complacency and self-indulgence.

Evangelii Gaudium 95.

Question: **What decision will you make today to ensure that the liturgy engenders a real sense of mission in those present that they may go out to ‘those who are distant, those who thirst for Christ’?**

Prayer:

Leader: Lord Jesus, in your mission you worked to bring about the Kingdom.

Response: *Son of God, we continue your mission.*

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gathered together the people of God.

Response: *Shepherd of God, we continue your mission.*

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are the Word that dwells among us.

Response: *Word of God, we continue your mission.*

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are the bread of life and the cup outpoured.

Response: *Lamb of God, we continue your mission.*

Leader: Lord Jesus, you call us forth to share in your mission to bring about the Kingdom.

Response: *Son of God, we answer your call.*

