

The Ministers of the Eucharist

By Austin Fleming

Yours is a share
in the work of the Lord's Spirit
 who makes of us
 one bread, one body,
the cup of blessing which we bless.

Yours is the work
of ministering Christ's body and blood
 to the body of Christ, the church.

Yours is service
at the Lord's reconciling table.

You name for each of us
the gifts we have offered
 and the gifts we receive;
"The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ."

You minister holy food to holy people
in the holiest of all communions.

Yours is the ministry of the One
who was broken and poured out for our sakes;
 the ministry of Christ
who is our Passover and our lasting peace.

Come to your work
from your personal prayer,
 praying that the Lord
will heal your brokenness
 as you break and pour out
 yourselves for others.

Remember the purity of the gifts you minister
and how great is your need
 for the Lord's mercy.

Learn to love the Eucharist you minister:
 let it heal the hurt
your heart is slow to acknowledge;
Let it make you one with all that is living;
 let it help you revere
 all those whom you serve.

Ministers of the Eucharist are many;
truly Communion Ministers
are what you must become.

Let your service at the Lord's table
make of your life a table of mercy and welcome
for all you know and meet.

In and outside the worship space,
reverence those you serve
as you would reverence
the sacrament you minister.

When you minister to friends and family,
remember that the greatest bond you share
is in the Lord.

When you minister to visitors and strangers,
reverence them
as you would your closest friend.

When you minister
to those with whom you are at odds,
reverence them
as the Lord does you in your sin.
Some will esteem you as "holy"
because of the work you do:
remember that your holiness
is the Lord's work within you.

When you are asked
to serve at inconvenient times,
let the needs of God's people
be your first consideration.

When you begin to think
that your ministry makes you
an important person in the community,
remember that what the Lord did at the table
became a sign of the Cross.

When your brothers and sisters
praise and thank you for your work,
take delight in the communion
you share with them in Christ
and rejoice in the work
the Lord has accomplished through you.

Be faithful in the work you do, for through it the Lord saves his people.