## Eucharistic Resources from *The Confession of Belhar* Catherine J. Purves

#### **Invitation to the Lord's Table** (See Luke 13: 29)

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

All will be together there at the table; all will be reconciled. God's justice will be established, and we will be at peace in Christ.

This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites all those who trust in him to share the feast which he has prepared.

#### **Invitation to the Lord's Table** (See Ephesians 4: 4-5)

This is the table of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here the community of faith gathers. United in baptism, we eat of one bread and drink of one cup, we confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, and share one hope.

Come to the table where our unity in Christ becomes visible, and where the triune God gathers, protects, and cares for the church.

#### **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you O Living God, by whose purpose and will all things came into being. In a gracious act of love you formed a people, gathering, protecting and caring for them through Word and Spirit. You called us to be the light of the world, a reflection of your glory and compassion, your justice and your love. When we allowed prejudice, fear, selfishness, and unbelief to lead us from the path of obedient faithfulness, again and again you sent prophets who called for justice and reconciliation. When our need was greatest, you did not abandon us, but sent us your Son, our Lord and Savior, so that we might be reconciled with you and with one another, one church, united in worship with all the faithful of every time and place singing forever to the glory of your name:

# Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, O God, for your grace embodied in Jesus Christ. In him humanity has been restored and we are a new community. In him the powers of separation and division and hatred have been defeated. In him the reign of righteousness and truth, freedom and justice has drawn near. Through his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, his ascension and his lordship, we are now certain of our hope and live in anticipation of his kingdom of peace and justice. Remembering all that you have done for us, and knowing that you are still at work in the world, we take this bread and we share this cup, giving thanks for our redemption and reconciliation now complete in Jesus Christ. And we offer up our lives as a proclamation of his lordship, celebrating his promises of unity, reconciliation, justice and peace.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus: **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.** 

Come, Holy Spirit.

Let these gifts of bread and wine be for us the body and blood of Christ. In this sharing may we be united with him and with one another. Reconciled, forgiven, united, and fed, send us out to live in obedience and sacrifice, until that day when all will gather at your table in glory, proclaiming: Jesus is Lord!

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the holy church, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

## **Prayer After Communion**

Holy and just God, at this our Lord's table we have known the power of your promises and the mystery of his presence. We have seen that we are one in him, reconciled with our sisters and brothers, united in praise and in service. Being fed and fortified, lead us now into the world to proclaim your justice and to work for your peace that all would come to see and know that Jesus is Lord and Savior. To him be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

## **Additional Eucharistic Resources**

Liturgies from *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1994) that lift of the themes of the Confession of Belhar:

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving for Pentecost, page 343 The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 'E', page 142