



# Creation Season

**Proper 23, Year A, October 12, 2008**

*Special Recognition of the Place of Food in our Lives  
Food as Community*

A Bulletin Insert for the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota

## Lessons (Revised Common Lectionary)

Exodus 32: 1-14	Isaiah 25: 1-9
Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-2	Psalm 23
<hr/>	
Philippians 4: 1-9	
Matthew 22: 1-14	

## Collect.

Gracious God you rained down manna on our ancestors in the wilderness: may we feel the daily blessing of plenty from your gracious hand, and be so nurtured by this earthly community gathered in your name that we evermore sing your praises with all our lives, through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit live and reign forever and ever. *Amen.*

or

O gracious Father, who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou givest, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*(For the Harvest of Lands and Waters, BCP, page 828)*



Copyright © 2008, The Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission, all rights reserved. The information on these pages may be retransmitted for information purposes or use in services, but may not be used in any non-MEESC publication (other than that of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota) without the written permission of the Chair of the Commission. All retransmissions, postings, and publications must include this notice.

20080814

**Creation Season:** Proper 23, Year A, October 12, 2008

*Special Recognition of the Place of Food in our Lives  
Food as Community*

## Sharing Food in Community

At how many levels have you sometimes participated in a community gathered around eating a meal? Children love birthday parties. Campers roast wieners around a campfire. Families build traditions around Sunday dinner and Easter breakfast. One of the most inclusive things we do is invite others to our home for a meal. Congregations have potluck suppers to extend the practice of Christian community beyond the sanctuary.

In Scripture we find stories of mealtime gatherings used as metaphors for the heavenly banquet God offers. One example is the wedding reception described in both Matthew and Luke in which the host extends the invitation to all who hear and respond.

Eucharist is the meal at the common table in which we participate with others in celebration of Jesus' sacrifice of himself, and in memory of his meal in community with his disciples at the Last Supper.



The Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission (MEESC) has prepared Creation Season materials for for Propers 22-25, Year A, with a focus on food. If you find the information on these inserts to be of interest, you may wish to visit the MEESC website for more information ([www.env-steward.com](http://www.env-steward.com)). Members of MEESC are available to visit your congregation to assist you in your environmental stewardship walk.