

Litanies & Responsive Readings

This *Procession of Symbols* should help create an atmosphere of celebration. It should communicate "*There's something special happening here today*". It is meant to be the first liturgical element of a service, but it can be adapted to fit at other points in your service as well.

"LEADER" = Pastor, Worship Leader, Liturgist, or another leader reading the assigned text from the pulpit or other prominent location at the front of the church

"PRESENTER" = This person will carry the symbol up the center isle as part of the procession, proceeding to a secondary microphone where they will read their assigned text before placing the symbol at the front of the church visible to the congregation.

Please feel free to adapt this Procession of Symbols to suit your church context. Adding soft upbeat music while the procession is unfolding can enhance the celebratory feel provided it does not overpower the spoken words.

A PROCESSION OF SYMBOLS

FARMING/AGRICULTURE

O Lord, we offer you this basket of fruit [or other symbol of farming/agriculture] as a symbol of all that you provide for us from fields, waters, and soil. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your work in this world through farming.

PRESENTER: Worker God, we celebrate the work of farmers, as done unto the Lord, and give you thanks!

BUSINESS/COMMERCE

O Lord, we offer you this briefcase [or other symbol of business] as a symbol of all that you provide for us in factories, offices, shops, and places of services. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your work in this world through business.

PRESENTER: Worker God, we celebrate the work of businesspeople, as for the Lord, and give you thanks!

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TRADES

O Lord, we offer you this hammer [or other symbol of the trades] as a symbol of all that you provide for us through the work of trade professionals.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your work in this world through trades such as construction, plumbing, electrical, and mechanics.

PRESENTER: Worker God, we celebrate the work of tradespeople, as for the Lord, and give you thanks!

HEALTHCARE

O Lord, we offer you this stethoscope [or other symbol of healthcare] as a symbol of all that you provide for us through hospitals, clinics, healthcare centers, pharmacies, and in-home care providers. Thank- you for the opportunity to participate in your work in this world through the caring professions of nurses, doctors, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals.

PRESENTER: Worker God, we celebrate the work of healthcare professionals, as for the Lord, and give you thanks!

POLITICS/LAW

O Lord, we offer you this gavel [or other symbol of politics/law] as a symbol of all that you provide for us through government and the legal and judicial system. Thank-you for the work of politicians, judges, lawyers, police officers, and other government and legal professionals. Thank- you for the opportunity to participate in your work in this world through politics and law.

PRESENTER: Worker God, we celebrate the work of politicians and legal professionals, as for the Lord, and give you thanks!

EDUCATION

O Lord, we offer you this textbook [or other symbol of education] as a symbol of all that you provide for us through our education system. Thank you for the work of teachers & professors, administrators, educational assistants, janitors, maintenance workers, and bus drivers. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your work in this world through education.

PRESENTER: Worker God, we celebrate the work of educators, administrators, and support personnel, as for the Lord, and give you thanks!

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UNEMPLOYMENT or UNDER EMPLOYED

O Lord, we offer you these job postings [or other symbol of unemployment] as a symbol of all those who are searching for work. There are many in our community who are facing financial hardship and in need of steady work. Thank you for the social systems that provide assistance for individuals and families during these times. Help us to be a supportive community for those facing economic hardship.

PRESENTER: Worker God, thank-you for being our provider and sustainer in times of hardship and job searching. In the searching, may people find opportunities to participate in your redemptive work in the world.

HOME CHORES

O Lord, we offer you this laundry detergent [or some other symbol of housework] as a symbol of all you provide for us through the work of home making. Thank you for the work of all those who do household chores, shop for groceries, prepare meals, take care of children, pay bills, mow lawns, or fold laundry. This work matters to you and contributes to healthy families and community life. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your work in the world through homemaking.

PRESENTER: Worker God, we celebrate the work of homemaking and caring for children, as for the Lord, and give you thanks.

SCRIPTURE – Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."