

## *THE MINISTRY OF READERS*

YOURS IS A SHARE IN THE WORK OF THE LORD'S SPIRIT  
WHO CALLS US TO PROCLAIM HIS GOOD NEWS  
IN EVERY TIME AND PLACE.

YOURS IS A MINISTRY THAT FLOWS FROM YOUR BAPTISM  
FOR YOU ARE TO CARRY THE WORD INTO THE WORLD.

YOURS IS AN ART OF PROCLAMATION THAT WILL GIVE LIFE AND MEANING  
TO GOD'S HOLY WORD.

YOU UTTER THE SACRED WORD THAT GIVES LIFE AND MEANING TO HIS PEOPLE.

YOU DECLARE THE WONDROUS DEEDS OF THE LORD  
BOTH IN THE PAST AND IN THE PRESENT.

YOU CALL THE ASSEMBLY TO FIDELITY TO THE NEW COVENANT.

YOU BREATHE THE WORDS OF HOPE, AND LIGHT, AND LIFE.

THE WORD OF THE LORD IS CHRIST PRESENT IN THE ASSEMBLY.  
AND THE WORD-MADE-FLESH IS ACTIVE.

IT IS THE YEAST THAT MAKES THIS BREAD, THIS PEOPLE, RISE.

IT IS THE YEAST THAT FERMENTS THIS WATER INTO A WINE THAT QUICKENS OUR SPIRIT,  
FREES OUR MINDS AND LOOSENS OUR TONGUES.

FROM THIS WORD WE HURRY TO THE SUPPER.

AND FROM THAT BANQUET WE GO TO A FAMISHED WORLD.

AND THERE WE LISTEN FOR, WE SPEAK, THE WORD OF THE LORD.

NOT IN SLICK PHRASES OR FANCY WORDS.

BUT WITH DEEDS.

DEEDS OF DYING AND RISING.

DEEDS OF DYING TO SELF AND RISING TO OTHERS, FOR OTHERS.

FROM THE SUPPER TO THE WORLD WE ARE CALLED.

TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD IN HUMAN TERMS.

TO LOVE THE WORD OF THE LORD.

TO LIVE THE WORD OF THE LORD.

TO BE THE WORD OF THE LORD.

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO SUCH AN INVITATION, TO SUCH A MYSTERY?  
ALL WORDS FAIL US EXCEPT THESE: "THANKS BE TO GOD!"