

Litany of Service

In God's holy wisdom, each of us has been given gifts to serve the body of Christ in various ways. Yet we come together this morning to specifically thank one member of this Body, Chrys Maret, who for 23 years, faithfully served our congregation through her loving hospitality.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

For two decades, Chrys has lovingly nurtured our congregation in one of the most basic and necessary ways possible: providing meals that sustained us and brought us together in community and fellowship.

"Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord..."

Chrys, you have provided an example to those who have witnessed your humble service. You have demonstrated what it is to love and serve with a Christlike devotion to this congregation, meeting the needs of those around you, ensuring that no one ever left hungry. As a result of your love and care, each time we received a plate and a smile from you, so too were we seeing the reflection of Christ Jesus in you.

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also."

From Vacation Bible School dinners, to church conference luncheons, from Wednesday lunches and dinners before Bible Study, to Deacon breakfasts, and everything else under the sun and moon, you spent untold hours cooking, preparing, shopping, cleaning, organizing, and directing, and in doing so, demonstrated time and again the depth with which you love God and this congregation. And this morning, we have an opportunity to say thank you, as individuals, of course, but as a congregation. As a group of people who time and again have been blessed by the kindness and generosity you shared with us.

"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

So this morning, we say thank you. Not because it's expected, but because it is deserved: because you have taught us all how to be more like Christ; because you have demonstrated what it means to live with a devotion to the gifts which we have been given; because you have shown us what it means to serve others with the radical hospitality with which we have been called to live.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him."

And so you have, and because of your faithfulness, we get to say

Thank you for your loving service to us.