

Great Thanksgiving
(*Ain't-A That Good News*)

**Sing: I got a crown up in-a that kingdom, Ain't-a that good news!
I got a crown up in-a that kingdom, Ain't-a that good news!
I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross.
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, Ain't-a that good news!**

You are the God of good news!
When the world is in lamentation, You are good news.
When there are wars and rumors of wars, You are good news.
When our captors ask us to sing the songs of Zion, You are good news.
When our temples are smoldering ash, You are good news.
When all hope seems to be gone, and our future has deserted us, You are good news.

Out of chaos, You create!
Out of nothing, You create!
You take those who are nobody, and recreate them into a people of Your very own.
Out of the ruins of our dreams, You create!
Out of the pain and destruction of our sins, You create!
You create hope.
You create new vision.
You create a rich future.
You create all things new and will always proclaim what You create, very good.
You are truly good news!

**Sing: I got a robe up in-a that kingdom, Ain't-a that good news!
I got a robe up in-a that kingdom, Ain't-a that good news!
I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross.
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, Ain't-a that good news!**

You are such good news and so is Jesus.
Good news to the poor.
Good news to prisoners.
Good news to the blind.
Good news to the oppressed.
Good news to outcasts.
Good news to foreigners.
Good news to those who long for a fresh start.
Good news to those who feel a need to be born again.

Jesus embodied good news
with a need to serve,
a willingness to wash the feet
of those unaware of their own needs.
Remember, we are to embody, good news.

Jesus embodied good news
when with joy and thanksgiving took the bread
used to hold tight to the reality of those still oppressed.
When breaking the bread to share it, Christ said:
“Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”
Remember, we are to embody, good news.

Jesus embodied good news
when with joy and thanksgiving took the cup
used to hold tight to the reality of those still struggling to hold on to their hope.
When lifting the cup to share it, Christ said:
“Drink, all of you. This is the cup of my blood
poured out in celebration of the good news found in God’s eternal covenant of grace,
promising forgiveness for your sins, even for the sins of the whole world.”
Remember, we are to embody, good news.

We struggle to embody good news in this world of turmoil.
However, we know where good news is found,
and we renew this vision as we sing:

***Sing: I got a Savior in-a that kingdom, Ain’t-a that good news!
I got a Savior in-a that kingdom, Ain’t-a that good news!
I’m-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross.
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, Ain’t-a that good news!***

Eternal Hope, Everlasting Joy
saturate these gifts of bread and wine,
inspire them to be for us the body and blood of Christ,
Good News.

Eternal Hope, Everlasting Joy
saturate the gift of our lives, our hopes and our fears,
inspire them to be for the world, your church
the tangible body and the present bride of Christ,
Good News.

Eternal Hope, Everlasting Joy
give to us the privilege of being a living expression of Your Good News
for those whose lives crave it.
Give us the opportunity to dance before the world
so that those who are discouraged might experience a taste of Your Good News.
Give to us the vision to see past what is, to what You are in the midst of creating,
so we might always behold Your good news that is for all people.

Jesus, we give You total praise.
Most Holy Spirit we give You full reign.
Creator God we open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our bodies to Your infinite love,
and worship before Your presence, forever,
as a fitting testimony for all You have done for us in the past, now and always. Amen.

Now as those who embrace good news, let us join with Christ in praying:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

(Prayer after Communion)

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to once again enter into this Your divine mystery in Jesus Christ. It has restored our souls with good news. It has energized us to express Your good news before a world filled with despair. So send us out, with smiles of joy to share Your good news with all we meet. Let them see it, feel it, taste it, experience it afresh in us. Transform the world with Your grace through Jesus Christ, always. Amen.