

Great Thanksgiving
(All Saints)

Invitation:

Jesus invites to this table anyone.

Jesus invites those looking for inspiration.

Jesus invites those who are looking for renewed strength for the journey.

Jesus invites those who know they are not saints, yet want to love deeper.

Jesus invites you to come and share this time of fellowship and know that you are accepted and loved.

Confession:

There is no one who is good but you. And so we come not claiming any goodness of our own. We know that we fall far short of your expectations and our own. We tend to judge the behavior of others more harshly than our own. We have believed the lies that our harm of others is some how good, and that showing compassion and being kind is somehow evil. Open our eyes so that we might see more clearly. Soften our hearts so we might love others more freely. Use our lives for your saintly purposes in Jesus Christ. Amen.

All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Jesus alone is our righteousness, our only hope of glory. By the grace of Christ you are forgiven, go and live a saintly life. Amen.

You too have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Jesus alone is your righteousness, your only hope of glory. By the grace of Christ you are forgiven, go and live a saintly life. Amen.

Thanksgiving:

In the eyes of God you are saints.

In our eyes we doubt we shall ever be.

In the heart of God you are moving closer and closer to perfection.

In our hearts we feel we are progressing too slowly.

God invites you to rejoice with Them and celebrate life.

We will this day celebrate the goodness of God we see in the lives of those saints of the past and present, and even in our future.

You create saints with your own hand.

You inspire hearts to share your love sacrificially.

You gift us with trials to strengthen our souls,
to fortify our resolve to serve you no matter our circumstances.

Your saints are formed from the least likely to be.

You lift up those who have been rejected and neglected.

With your song you call the humble of heart,
those with not strength to call their own.

Your gifts and calling are irrevocable.

Out of nothing you create a whole new ways of looking at life using your saints to change the very course of history.

Today we listen for your call,
not for greatness, but for saintly service.
For whom do you want us to raise up our voices?
For whom do you want us bear our backs to the whip?
For whom do you need us to pour out our lives like water?
Today, we your saints listen for your call that will fill a world of pain and disillusionment with praise and shouts of joy, with songs the raise up to heaven:

**We are filled with profound joy when diverse trials come our way.
Thank you for the gift of hardships that develop our perseverance.
Thank you for the gift of perseverance that help us develop our character.
Thank you for the gift of character that empowers us give hope to the world.
Thank you for the gift of hope because it moves us beyond any disappointment.
Thank you for these gifts that open our hearts to the love that you pour into us
transforming our lives and our world.** (Romans 5:3-5)

We are thankful for all of your gifts, especially for the gift of Jesus.
Jesus showed us how to persevere in times of hardship.
We observed the benefits to his character.
The life of Christ continues to radiate hope and Jesus never disappoints.
Most of all in Jesus we have experienced the richness of divine love,
like living water it has revived out souls,
like manna from heaven it has fed our deepest hungers.

Jesus has demonstrated how we are to become saints,
how to become the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.
Jesus showed us what to do by divesting themself of every honor,
and by becoming a willing slave to all.
Jesus washed every foot.
Jesus touched every life with grace.
Jesus extended mercy to all.
This is the sainthood Christ seeks to create in us.

To demonstrate how to become a saint
with ancient prayers and ritual, Jesus took the bread of Passover,
a liturgical reminder of the needs still being addressed by God.
Taking the bread, Jesus shared it with all the disciples and said:
“Take, eat, this is my body broken and given for you.”
This is the sainthood Christ seeks to create in us.

To demonstrate how to become a saint
with ancient prayers and ritual, Jesus took the Passover cup,
a liturgical reminder of God’s still unfolding grace.

Lifting the cup, Jesus shared it with all the disciples and said:
“Share with me, each of you for this is the cup of my blood
a offering poured out trusting in the everlasting covenant of grace,
a promise to you and to the whole world that your sins are forgiven.”
This is the sainthood Christ seeks to create in us.

We desire to become the saints of God.
We are grateful for those saints who have gone before us, showing us the way.
But most of all we are grateful for the example of Christ,
an example we celebrate in this holy declaration:

**Christ died not for himself but for others.
Christ arose not for himself but for others.
Christ comes again not for himself but for others.**

Irrevocable Call, Good and Faithful Servant,
pour yourself into these gifts of bread and wine
remaking them to be for us
the body and blood of Christ.

Irrevocable Call, Good and Faithful Servant,
pour yourself into the gift of our ordinary lives
remaking them for others to be your church,
the sacrificial body and selfless bride of Christ.

Irrevocable Call, Good and Faithful Servant,
bless your church on this all saints day.
Quicken our hearts to be first to volunteer
as we loudly proclaim: “Here I am, send me!”
Steel our wills, so that we can boldly go where others fear to tread.
Share with us a taste of your compassion, that we might truly learn to care for others.

**We dedicate our lives to following Christ
empowered by the Holy Spirit’s Love
to bring you glory, honor and praise
Eternal God now and always. Amen.**

Now we are invited to pray in the style Jesus taught us:

**Creator of all the saints who dwell on earth and in heaven
we are encouraged by your faithfulness.
You provide the food we need, with plenty to share.
With mercy you wash away all our sins,
and empower us to wash away all the sins committed against us.
You lead us away when we are tempted to do harm,
and show us new ways we can work for good instead.**

**Your love calls us, Your mercy guides us, and Your humility grounds us,
always. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

We are humbled by your invitation to join with you in this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. We know that all of our works are as filth, yet through Christ you make them shine with all the glory of heaven. We have done nothing, but Christ seeks to do great acts of grace through us. Now we ask for one more honor, allow us the privilege of representing Christ before the world. We will seek to bind up the broken hearted and find ways to set prisoners free. Let our lives demonstrate that now is the acceptable day of the Lord as we become your Good News to all. Amen.