

Great Thanksgiving  
(Always)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are always with us, even when we do not notice You.

You are always speaking to us, even when we are not listening.

You always care for us, even when we rob You of the credit.

We always blame You, even when we cause our own tribulation.

You are always there to pick up the pieces  
after we have made a shambles of our lives.

You never give up on us,  
even when we have already done so ourselves.

You are always working for our good and seeking our full salvation, no matter how much we  
struggle against You.

Thank you!

We deserve so much less,  
yet You always see in us a sacred value  
more precious than life itself.

And this has always been true not just for us, but for all.

So we do not sing Your praises alone, but everyone and everything on the earth, above the earth  
and under the earth join with us to praise Your holy name.

All of heaven joins with us, so that the whole universe declares and joins an unending hymn of  
praise saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You will always be holy and so is Jesus, whom You sent.

Always Your presence in plain sight.

An ordinary child of poor struggling parents,  
that caused angels to sing,

and the wise to travel great distances to adore.

An ordinary boy with an open heart and mind,  
asking questions and learning about our world.

An ordinary member of the crowd  
doing down to the Jordan River for baptism,

repenting of the sins of the world.  
You were so very pleased.  
An ordinary person full of compassion willing to enter  
the struggles of the blind, the lame, and the tormented.  
Always ready to extend healing care,  
always had food to share,  
and a heart felt prayer.

Always ready to serve,  
Jesus gave us an example of service,  
the teacher serving the student,  
the master changing places with the slave,  
ready to stoop and serve.  
May we always be ready, like You.

Always ready to serve,  
Jesus took the bread that opens the heart to the oppressed,  
with prayers of thanksgiving Christ broke it  
and shared it with all,  
“Take and eat, this is my body given for you.”  
May we always be ready, like You.

Always ready to serve,  
Jesus took the cup that recalls the price paid for our sins,  
with prayers of thanksgiving Christ shared it with all,  
“Drink with me all of you, for this cup is filled with my blood  
poured out rejoicing in God’s eternal covenant of forgiveness made with you and the whole of  
creation.”  
May we always be ready, like you.”

We always want to be like You.  
We want to serve like You, sacrifice like You, love like You.  
We believe that this will always be the way we want to follow, the truth that will always guild  
us, and the life of love and compassion we choose to live always.  
This we have found in the holy mystery we now declare:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Sure Salvation, Perfect Peace,  
always allow these gifts of bread and wine,  
to become for us the body and blood of Christ  
the hope of abundant life.

Sure Salvation, Perfect Peace,  
always allow the gift of our whole selves,  
to become for the world, Your church,

the living body and attentive bride of Christ  
the hope of abundant life.

Sure Salvation, Perfect Peace,  
open our eyes  
that we might always see You in the lives of others.  
Open our ears  
that we might always hear Your words shared with us by others.  
Open our hearts that we might always love You when You come to us in every life.

We say these words to the Christ the Son of the living God,  
held in the loving embrace of the Holy Spirit,  
for the glory and the honor of the One True God,  
Loving and Compassionate, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Now as those who will always be held in the love of God,  
let us pray in the words of Jesus Christ, saying:

**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)*

We thank you for allowing us to enter into this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. In Christ we always find hope, help, health and happiness. We want the same for other, so send us out with Your good news that is for all people, so they too might see You and join us in worship before Your throne. Amen.