

Great Thanksgiving
(*Beatitudes*)

We are the blessed.

We are truly blessed of the Lord.

We are invited to receive all that life has in store for us.

All that seems good and pleasant to us.

All that does not seem to be a blessing at all.

We believe that all things are a blessing for those who love God and are loved by God.

You bless us even when we mourn with Divine comfort.

You bless us by sharing Your Spirit of gentleness, it is worth everything to us.

You bless us with Your true food and drink as we seek to do what right to all.

You bless us with occasions to show mercy that seems to surround every aspect of our lives.

You bless us with an awareness of Your greater family that makes for peace.

You bless us when we are in the midst of persecution because we are right with You and it is heavenly.

You bless us when we are reproached, persecuted, and falsely accused due to our relationship with you.

Because of all these blessings and more we rejoice and sing with all the prophets who have gone before us.

“Amen, the blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanks and the honor and the power and the might to our God until the ages of the ages; amen.” (*Revelation 7:12*)

You, alone have truly blessed us and our greatest blessing has been in the person of Jesus.

By being born to a poor family, Jesus lived before us the blessing of being destitute, now, and often warned those who were blessed with everything of the need to give it all away.

Jesus went into the desert to demonstrate the blessing of being hungry now, and taught the devil himself that it was better to wait to be seated at Your table than to rush off after dirty bread.

Jesus showed us that there is a greater blessing found in a shared tear, than laugh at another's expense.

Jesus showed us that it is a blessing to be hated, excluded, reproached, and rejected by others.

Jesus said on such a day we should rejoice, leap and praise God because of the rich rewards we gain through them.

Because of all of these rich blessing we are compelled to make this great thanksgiving.

In these blessings we see clearly the spiritual path we desire

and so we declare our commitment to Christ as we proclaim this holy mystery:

We are blessed when we die in Christ.

We are blessed when we freely invite Christ to live through us.

We are blessed by with hope that when Christ returns, we shall be like him.

Source of each and every Blessing, Reflection of Grace,

grant that we might see in these gifts of bread and wine

Your tangible presence, the body and blood of Jesus Christ,

Your smile and glory.

Source of each and every Blessing, Reflection of Grace,
grant that the world might see in the gift our lives
Your tangible presence, the church, the living body and loving bride of Christ,
Your smile and glory.

Source of each and every Blessing, Reflection of Grace,
Redeem the pain and suffering found in our world.
Allow us to see the glint of your gracious presence.
Open our hearts to your hope as we seek these blessings.

Make us like Christ.
Transform us through the Holy Spirit.
Renew of minds with the infinite creative possibilities found in our relationship with You,
Compassionate, Merciful, Imaginative, Lover of us all.
That we might give you praise for these blessings now and forever more.

Amen.

Now as the blessed of God let us pray with Christ: