

Great Thanksgiving
(*Cleaning Our Mess*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your heart.

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 the One who always sees creative possibilities,
when all we see is a hopeless mess.
When all we experience in our world is chaos,
You have a Word of redemption.
You are so excited about what You want to do next,
but You leave us white knuckled with fear
as we see the end of all we know and understand.
For You Your creativity never has a limit,
Your dreams do not end,
for You there is always a next, followed by yet a new thing.
And for You the whole experience is fantastic!

As we catch a glimpse of the scope of Your vision
we are overwhelmed.
You are amazing! You are awesome!
You force us to create a new song of expanding praise.
Your greatness moves us to invent new instruments of worship,
to add more voices as we evangelize the world to fill out our Hallelujah Chorus.
We raise our voices so that we can join with those who surround your throne to join in their
unending praise, singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy and so is Jesus Christ
whom you sent to dwell with us in this mess of a world.
Jesus showed us how to heal the world through Your grace.
Jesus demonstrated how to be generous with those in need,
even we felt we had nothing to share.
Jesus taught us not judge others,
by only judging himself, not even calling himself good,
proclaiming that only You O God are truly good.

Jesus demonstrated for us how to show mercy and forgiveness
even to those who mock and abuse you,
how to end the human cycle of violence, by returning evil with good.

Even though without sin, Jesus chose to take upon himself,
the penalty of our sins.
Instead of judging us, Jesus died for us.

When we were infected by the mess of this world,
Jesus took it upon himself to change it.
Becoming a servant,
Jesus stooped down and washed all the grim away.
We are to remember and follow this example.

On the night of the betrayal,
Jesus with thanksgiving took the bread of Passover,
a reminder of those who are still suffering under oppression,
When he broke it, he said, "Take, eat, this is my body given for you."
We are to remember and follow this example.

After supper was over,
Jesus with thanksgiving took the last cup of Passover wine,
a reminder of those still waiting with hope for salvation,
When he offered it, he said, "Drink this all of you, for this is the cup of my blood, poured out in
tribute to God's eternal covenant of grace, insuring forgiveness to you and to the whole world."
We are to remember and follow this example.

We know that we have made a mess of Your world.
We see the damage our sins have caused
our family, our friends and our world.
We also know that Christ is the only way we can find
and share in healing.
So we take his holy mystery as our creed,
and before the world we proudly sing:

Chaos Tamer, New Life Arranger,
Brood over these gifts of bread and wine
Remake them for us into the body and blood of Christ
and restore the world.

Chaos Tamer, New Life Arranger,
Brood over the gift of our lives, our hopes and dreams,
remake them for the world into Your church,

the living body and beloved bride of Christ,
and restore the world.

Chaos Tamer, New Life Arranger,
Brood with us over the mess we have made.
Give us hope, by revealing to us new life.
Give us grace, by opening new opportunities to heal others.
Give us new life, by encouraging us to embrace your new creation.
May our new lives bring honor to the Christ who saves us.
May our new lives bring glory to the Spirit who empowers us.
May our new lives bring joy to the One who not only imagined us, but has made us part of a
glorious creation, now and forever.
Amen.

Now as those whose lives have been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, let us pray with Jesus:

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed by 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 to us a foretaste of heaven, through this holy mystery. We have
gained a deeper assurance of salvation and a deeper appreciation for all You have given to
us in Jesus Christ, even eternal life. This is way too good to keep to ourselves, so as we go
give us opportunities to share this same grace with others, so they too may be able to share
in this good news in Jesus Christ. May everyone feel free to join us in worshipping You
forever. Amen.**