

Great Thanksgiving
(*Cornerstone*)

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.

Remodeler of our of our lives,

You alone could break down the walls that divided us.

You took our lives that showed the effects of years of hostility,
and refreshed us.

You renewed our lives, that were warped and misshapen by the misuse of the law with its
commandments and ordinances.

You stripped our lives down to the bare wood of the cross, and rebuilt our lives from the ground
up.

You created for yourself in us a new humanity.

You have healed our breach,

reconciled our lives and created for us the opportunity to experience a profound peace.

So now we can join with those

who are no longer strangers and aliens,

with our fellow citizens and saints,

Your whole household found on earth and in heaven

to worship before Your throne saying:

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.

We are Your temple built of living stones,

and Jesus in the cornerstone and in him the whole structure is joined together.

Jesus laid for us a foundation built upon the prophets:

Your desire for mercy and not sacrifice;

Your desire for gracious forgiveness; and not condemnation;

Your desire for humility and a heart for service,

and not one bent on achieving honor, glory nor power.

Jesus showed the apostles

how You wanted them to build up the body:

Your desire for those willing to give everything,

to die that others might live;
Your desire for those who were willing to serve the needs of others, and not seeking to be served;
Your desire for those who wanted only Your will to be done,
and not their own.

Jesus is our cornerstone.
Without Jesus' life and example our faith is empty.
So it is fitting that Jesus took his rightful place,
not high and exalted but, down on his knees.
Not condemning the one who would betray;
Not shaming the one who would deny knowing God's love;
Not reprimanding the ones who would hide their witness in fear.
Instead Jesus showed them love, comfort and care
as he washed their feet, and invited them to exemplify his love.
We can't forget this.

Jesus the cornerstone of our faith
took bread in remembrance of those who are oppressed,
Giving thanks for God's deliverance, he broke the bread to share it with all saying: "Take, eat,
this is my body, given for you."
We can't forget this.

Jesus the cornerstone of our faith
to the cup in remembrance of all the innocent blood spilt,
Giving thanks for God's deliverance, sharing the cup with all saying:
"Drink with me all of you, for this is the cup of my blood poured out as an expression of faith in
God's eternal covenant, promising forgiveness of your sins and the sins of all."
We can't forget this.

We won't forget, anything that You have done for us in Jesus Christ.
We who were once far off, have been brought near to You in Jesus.
Jesus is our peace.
Our lives are held together through this Holy Mystery which we declare before the world:

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

Chaos Shaper, Soul Remaker
rework these gifts of bread and wine
so that they may be for us the true body and blood of Christ
the cornerstone of our being.

Chaos Shaper, Soul Remaker
rework the gift of our being, tear down, reconcile, bring peace
so that we may be for the world, Your church,
the life giving body and spotless bride of Christ

the cornerstone of our being.

Chaos Shaper, Soul Remaker
work in our lives, in our ministries,
in our conference, districts and churches.
Take away all division.
Quiet our hostility.
Rebuild our lives upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets.
Jesus be our cornerstone.
Holy Spirit breathe new life in us.
Creative, Imaginative, Solution, Ruler over all,
hear our prayer and find pleasure in our lives now and always.

Amen.

Now let us join together and pray with Jesus 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.**