

Great Thanksgiving  
*(Dust and Ashes)*

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.**

Creator of all we see and have not yet seen;

Maker of all that is imaginable and all that is still unimaginable;

we thank You for this amazing garden of Eden where we dwell.

At times we do not even see it.

At times we have destroyed it in ignorance,

at other times by design.

There are so many wondrous species of flora and fauna that we have wiped out of existence, without a thought of Your great delight at their creation.

With each loss of life, we have diminished Your glory, and silenced Your praises.

You expect more from us.

And we are grateful for this opportunity to change,

by starting to walk more humbly before You,

to show more mercy to Your creation,

and to be a voice of justice for all that is living,

especially all who are endangered due to our great sin.

Accept our praises as we join with flowers and insects, burrowing grubs and majestic spruce, dancing carp and refugee children trapped in camps.

Listen as we dare to join with that great choir assembled around Your heavenly throne, and join in their unending hymn:

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

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy and so is Jesus, Your holy presence among us.

A buried reed Christ would not break.

Jesus considered the remarkable beauty of the lilies

and knew how You value every single sparrow.

Jesus knew that You see great worth in those the world does not,

and invites us to be mindful of their needs before our own.

Jesus demonstrated greatness through service.

When others were seeking to be the greatest,

Jesus showed us that true greatness is found in humble service.

How then shall we live?

Jesus demonstrated greatness through service.  
He took the bread of Passover,  
a reminder to remember the struggle of the oppressed.  
Jesus broke that bread with prayer, and shared it with all:  
“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.”  
How then shall we live?

Jesus demonstrated greatness through service.  
He took the cup of Passover wine,  
a reminder to all of the true cost of sin.  
Jesus prayed and shared it with all:  
“Drink from this cup of my blood,  
poured out as an offering to celebrate God’s eternal covenant of grace,  
sharing forgiveness with all.”  
How then shall we live?

We know how we want to live.  
We want to be like Christ and bring life into our world not death.  
We want to be like Christ and bring hope into our world not despair.  
We want to be like Christ and so we embrace this mystery of our faith:

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

Tree of Life, Spring of Joy  
Use these our gifts of bread and wine,  
and make them become for us, the body and blood of Christ,  
the path to a new creation.

Tree of Life, Spring of Joy  
Use the gift of our lives, our strengths and our weaknesses,  
and make them for the earth, your church,  
the body and bride of Christ,  
the past to a new creation.

Tree of Life, Spring of Joy  
transform our thinking and behavior  
that You might find us useful in the restoration of the earth.  
Use us to heal the wounds of pollution.  
Change the way we connect to the earth and all its creatures.  
We pray for new life in Jesus Christ, who rose to make all things new.  
We pray for transformation in the Holy Spirit, who hovers over our chaos to restore nature's  
order.  
We pray for imagination through the inspiration of our Creator, who delights in a healthy  
creation; where all the creatures of this planet can join together to proclaim the praises of our  
God forever. **Amen.**

Let us join with Christ to pray as he taught us:

**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)*

Thank you for leading us more deeply into this holy mystery in Jesus Christ. You have taken us from death to life, from despair to hope, and from being miserably lost to finding our way back into Your garden of delight. Now send us out into the world with Your grace to share with all creation. Use us to bring healing to those we have harmed. Use us to bring peace to a troubled environment. That You our God may look at all You have created and see that it is good.  
Amen.