

Great Thanksgiving
(*Epiphany*)

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.

We celebrate your epiphany, your manifestation in our world.

We know we are not alone because you have chosen to reveal your presence in our world.

As we consider the lilies of the field, we are amazed by your intricate creativity.

As we discover our interconnectedness with all living things we are filled with awe and wonder at the beauty of your dance of life.

You allow us to touch your infinity through the rich evolutionary living kaleidoscope around us.

Thank you for giving us a universe with an infinite number of flavor combinations.

Thank you for surrounding us with innumerable scents that swirl around us.

Thank you for making yourself know in the realities of a multitude of cultures and languages.

Thank you for this opportunity to delight in your presence in an unimaginable diversity that remind us of the splendor of heaven where your infinity is expressed in its fullness.

Now we seek to join with the heavenly host:

people for every culture and language,

people of every time and place,

people of every race and ethnicity,

people of every gender expression and orientation,

people of every color, size, shape and ability.

We seek to join our praise with theirs in heaven and on earth,

sharing in the epiphany of your glory as we say:

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

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy and the full epiphany of your glory is Jesus Christ.

In Jesus You were seen in the life of an unwanted child,

as Joseph contemplated putting this child and his mother away quietly.

In Jesus You were seen in the life of a rebellious youth,

causing parents to freak out with worry.

In Jesus You were seen in the life of the mentally ill,

with mother and siblings sought to make an intervention.

In Jesus You manifested your presence in the life of the homeless,

dependant upon the hospitality and mercy of strangers.

Jesus was transformed before squabbling disciples
giving them an epiphany of the God who does not want sacrifice but mercy,
the God who chooses to serve and not to be served,
when Jesus was transfigured from master to slave.
Christ wants us to learn of your love through epiphany.

The disciples saw an epiphany
when Jesus took with gratitude the bread of promise,
broke it inviting: "Take, eat, this is my body given for you."
Christ wants us to learn of your love through epiphany.

The disciples saw an epiphany
when Jesus took with gratitude your cup of judgement,
inviting our participation: "Drink from this cup all of you
This is God's blood covenant promising the forgiveness of every sin."
Christ wants us to learn of your love through epiphany.

We desire to be a living expression of Your epiphany to the World.
We want the whole world to see Christ in us.
This is why we embrace this holy mystery:

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

Living Manifestation, Presence of God
create with these gifts of bread and wine an epiphany,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Living Manifestation, Presence of God
create with the gift of our lives an epiphany,
the Church, the body and cherished bride of Christ for the salvation of the world.

Living Manifestation, Presence of God
open our eyes that we might recognize your presence with us
in the lives of everyone we meet,
in all the places we visit,
in all the words shared,
in every action on our behalf,
that we might see your epiphany,
and worship you, Jesus.
That we might adore you, most Holy Spirit.
That we might appreciate you, Spectacular Creator God,
Holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Now in celebration of God's epiphany in Jesus Christ, let us join in our Lord's prayer:

**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.**