

Great Thanksgiving
(Eyes Myself)

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.

I would never have believed it,
if I had not seen it with my own eyes,
if I had not touched this reality with my own hands.
From time to time You have just appeared.
When I have needed you most, I have found You by my side.
When I my soul cried out, You have been there to comfort me.
Noticing Your presence fills me with delight beyond words.
I could feel the burdens weighing me down lifted from my shoulders.
So I sing Your praises.
I sing with the whole of Your earthly creation.
I sing with angels, archangels, seraphim, cherubim and all the saints in heaven.
Together we proclaim:

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

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

I have experienced Your holy presence,
and that of Jesus Christ.
Jesus was a baby with real parents who worked hard to keep from danger.
Jesus was visited by the poorest of the poor and the very rich and powerful.
Jesus was viewed as a threat to King Herod
and had to flee from armed soldiers becoming a refugee.
Jesus was always getting into trouble,
first for not staying with his parents when they visited the temple,
later by doing good on the Sabbath and associating with known sinners.
Christ's mother and other women watched Jesus die,
later they found angels in an empty tomb.
When they found the risen Jesus fell down to worship.
They were the first to see Jesus with their own eyes, but not the last.
Jesus walked the road to Emmaus, and broke bread with a couple there.
Later Jesus ate fish with the disciples,
and shared a private moment with Thomas.

Christ wants to be known.

We will never forget how Jesus took bread.

Bread that was prayer blessed and full of history and meaning.

Jesus broke this bread and shared it with the whole company of believers, saying:

“Take and eat, this is my body that is being broken and shared with you.”

Christ wants to be known.

We will never forget how Jesus took wine.

Wine that was prayer blessed and full of history and meaning.

Jesus filled the cup and shared it with the whole company of believers, saying:

“Take and drink, this cup is filled with my blood,
which I pour out to ratify God’s everlasting covenant of grace,
granting the forgiveness of not only your sins, but the sins of the entire world.”

Christ wants to be known.

Christ does want to be known.

This is why we have been sent out into all the world.

Just as we have seen Christ in others, we desire for others to see Christ in us,
therefore we embrace this profound mystery with all our heart:

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

Tangible, Palpable, Eternally Present

reveal Yourself in this bread and wine,

allowing them to become for us the body and blood of Christ,

God with us.

Tangible, Palpable, Eternally Present

reveal Yourself through our lives, our actions, our thoughts, and our words

allowing them to become for the world, Your church,

the miracle working body and the sacrificial bride of Christ,

God with us.

Tangible, Palpable, Eternally Present

reveal to St Paul’s United Methodist Church

how You want them to become Your peaceful presence,

where You might reveal through them Your spirit of ministry and forgiveness,

and become a persistent proof so all might believe that You are alive.

We pray because our world needs to know Christ.

We pray because our community needs to feel the power of the Holy Spirit.

We pray because we all need the imagination, the ingenuity, the insights of the One who knows
us all better than we know ourselves, and bring God’s peace upon the earth and in our souls.

Amen.

Now I invited you all to pray with me the prayer taught by Christ:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of sharing with Christ, this holy mystery. Through this means of grace we have experience, “eyes myself”. We have caught a glimpse of the Savior who is in our world today. Now send us out with joy, to share the good news that is for all people: Our God is real, transforming every life with blessing. Amen.