

Great Thanksgiving  
(Family)

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 love being known as your children.

Some of us call You Father, others Mother

for you are the only one who has always loved us unconditionally.

You always dream the best for us,

even when we have failed miserably to live up to those dreams.

Every time we stumble and fall,

you are there to pick us up,

hug us tight,

and soothe our pain and shame.

Your greatness can be intimidating

and sometimes we are even afraid of your great power,

but you are only kind, gentle and very patient with us.

We feel safe being part of your family.

You surround us with love, joy and your faithfulness.

Thank you.

We, your family gather together.

All of us on earth and all those in heaven

please listen to us as we praise you:

**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.**

Holy are You and you have blessed us through your son Jesus.

Jesus was part of a family.

Mary was his mother and Joseph adopted Jesus as his own.

Jesus had the gift of siblings:

four brothers and some sisters with which to play.

Jesus traveled to Jerusalem for Passover with his extended family.

Jesus deeply loved his cousin John, who baptized him in the Jordan.

Jesus lived a full life as a single person living in the community of friends.

It was at Jesus' last family gathering  
that his disciples were to help him host.

When all found the task of washing feet beneath them.  
Jesus without hesitation, left his leisure and showed them hospitality.  
Hospitality was sacred to Jesus.

During that last family gathering  
Jesus expressed gratitude for the Passover bread  
then breaking it, shared it with his extended family:  
“This is my body given for you.”  
Generosity was sacred to Jesus.

After the last family supper he was to eat,  
Jesus took with gratitude the cup his Father gave him  
and invited his extended family:  
“Drink from this cup all of you, for this is the offering of my blood, proclaiming God’s covenant  
of forgiveness in a new way for you and everyone.”  
Sacrificial love was sacred to Jesus.

As we remember what was sacred to Christ.  
These gifts that were shared with the family of God.  
We desire to personally enter into this holy mystery  
of sacred hospitality, generosity and love  
with this profound declaration:

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

Bond of family, Love and Grace  
caress these gifts of bread and wine  
transforming them for us into the body and blood of Christ  
God’s invitation to us.

Bond of family, Love and Grace  
caress the gift of our lives  
transforming us into your church, the body and bride of Christ,  
God’s invitation to the world.

Bond of family, Love and Grace  
caress with your presence all who do not feel at home,  
those who feel alone,  
those who feel rejected,  
those who feel neglected,  
all those who need to be reminded that they are family,  
and they are loved.

In the name of the one who is Father and Mother, Sister and Brother,  
Lover, Friend, and Spouse. In the Name of the one who lives in eternal love as family now and  
forever. Amen.

Now as members of the One Family let us pray with Christ:

**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.**