

Great Thanksgiving
(*Fearless*)

(Tune God Is So Good)

One: God is right here,
God is right here,
God is right here,
Open up your hearts.

**All: We are right here,
We are right here,
We are right here,
We have open hearts.**

One: You, O God are fearless.
No one,
nothing,
makes You tremble
and You have made us in Your image.

O Wellspring of Power radiating from our soul;
You fill us with the power to create, to imagine, to dream dreams and see visions.
You fill us with the power to move boldly beyond our own limitations,
beyond our own understanding,
beyond our experience, tradition and reason
where You alone create all things new.

O River of Love that cascades from the Throne of Grace;
You fill us with the power to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us.
You fill us with the power to love enough to go the extra mile of reconciliation
and to turn the other cheek with the hope that brings about the transformation of the
world.

O Patient Strength of Discipline You give to us the power to stand as Your witnesses.
We are witnesses to Your power to wear away cold hearts of stone,
so that You can replace them with hearts enabled to respond to Your compassionate
touch.
We are witnesses to Your ability to outlast every evil,
to patiently prevail over all tyranny.
Your disciplined principled ways never fail.

Do we need any other reason to join with all of creation to sing your praises?
Do we need any other justification to join with the throngs of heavenly beings
to sing to your glory? So let us sing:

(Tune God Is So Good)

**All: Holy, holy
Lord God of Love**

**Full of glory
Highest Hosanna!**

**Blessed are those
Bearing God's Name
Say Hosanna**

To our God most high.

One: O God, You are fearless, and so is Jesus Christ our Lord.
By the power of Your love, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and even now sitteth at Your right hand and will come to judge us all.

Jesus showed forth Your fearlessness,
willingly being led into the wilderness to face temptation,
willingly bringing together disciples of opposing theologies and politics,
willingly teaching and acting against the traditional interpretations of Your Holy Word,
willingly touching the unclean, the unsafe, and the undesirable.

With the power of self-discipline
Jesus walked away from a place of privilege
humbly took a position with the poor
and washed the feet of the undeserving, the ungrateful, and the unknowing;
encouraging us to embrace Your power to do the same.

With the power of self-discipline
Jesus followed ancient rituals of prayer and worship
taking the Passover bread with renewed meaning, saying:
"Take and eat, each of you, for this is my body given for you."

With the power of self-discipline
Jesus followed ancient rituals of prayer and worship
taking the Passover cup after supper with renewed meaning, saying:
"Drink from this cup, each of you,
for this is the my blood testifying to God's covenant of forgiveness
with you and the whole world."

We see the fearlessness you want in us exemplified in Christ.
We see in Christ the power of love and discipline.
We do not want a spirit of fear and so we pledge our lives
to follow the way of Christ which we boldly proclaim:

(Tune God Is So Good)

All: Jesus has died.

**Jesus arose.
Christ is alive
and will come again.**

One: Spirit of Power and Love,
enliven these gifts of bread and wine
make them be for us the body and blood of Christ
Your transforming power.

Spirit of Power and Love,
enliven the gift of our lives
make them to be for the world Your Church, the body and bride of Christ
Your transforming power.

Spirit of Power and Love,
be with those who live in fear:
fear of change,
fear of others,
fear of harm,
fear of what the future holds,
and allow them the grace to see and trust the power of Your grace.

Make us fearless through the love of Jesus.
Make us fearless through the discipline of the Holy Spirit.
Make us fearless through the power of Your Creative Imagination.
And we shall give You glory and devotion and a dance of joy.

(Tune God Is So Good)

**All: Amen, Amen.
Amen, Amen.
Amen, Amen.
A-A-A-Amen.**

One: Now as the fearless followers of Christ, Let's pray with Jesus, saying:

**All: 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.**