

Great Thanksgiving
(From the Creator's Heart)

Everyone comes from the Creator's heart.

We who are young are grateful for the care our older relatives have given to us.

From mother earth we were formed from the clay.

From the four winds we were given the breath of life.

From living waters we found our form.

From the warmth of the sun we were given each new day.

We are grateful to the Creator for the gifts all of our relatives give us.

We sit in awe and listen to the wisdom of our relatives:

Mountains, Hills, Canyons, Cliffs and Valleys.

We listen intently to the ancient songs passed down to us by the winds,
in gentle Breezes and in majestic Storms: Tornados, Hurricanes, and Typhoons.

We are guided by the persistence of our relatives: Oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, shorelines, quiet
coves and river banks.

We are instructed by our ancestors: Volcanoes, Glaciers, Dunes, and open Prairie.

We are grateful to the Creator for the gifts all our relatives give to us.

We are grateful for our older siblings, the four legged: Buffalo, Elk, Moose, Deer, for Beaver,
Fox, Otter, Possum, Squirrel and Mouse.

We all come from the Creator's heart.

We are thankful for our older siblings, the winged: Eagle, Hawk, Owl, Goose, and Duck, for
Robin, Jay, and Chickadee.

We all come from the Creator's heart.

We rejoice in our older siblings, who are so small yet essential to us all: Flies, Mosquitos,
Spiders, Bees and Wasps, worms, grubs, and ants.

We all come from the Creator's heart.

We are grateful for all the many members of our family.

They are all important from the smallest Snake, to the largest fish.

We all come from the Creator's heart.

We are thankful for our three sisters, and for the nourishing bounty they provide.

We are grateful to the gifts and wisdom of the elders: Maple, Ash, Cedar, Pine, Sycamore,
Willow and Birch.

We greet with joy our relatives, Blueberry, Raspberry, Elderberry; Apple, Pear and Pawpaw.
It is through their sacrifice that the Creator sustains our lives.

We rejoice and are blessed by the burning of sweetgrass, sage and tobacco.

We all come from the Creator's heart.

Today we remember that when Jesus took the bread,
it was with gratitude to You, Creator and for Your gift of grain from the earth.
Jesus shared it with all using these words,
“Take eat, this is my body given for you.”

We remember that all are connected in life.

Today we remember that when Jesus took the cup,
it was with gratitude to You, Creator and for Your gift of fruit from the grapevine.
Jesus shared it with all with these words,
“Drink with me, each of you, for this cup is my blood poured out
to honor the Creator's promise to forgive our wrongs as we forgive the wrongs of others.”

We remember that all are connected in life.

All of us come from the Creator's heart.
Jesus was a living expression of Creator's presence among us,
and the Creator's willingness to care for our needs and make us strong.
We recall his story when we say:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Winds from the east, west, north and south,
bring a richer meaning to these gifts of bread and juice
awaken for us the deeper reality of the body and blood of Christ
the gift of the Creator.

Winds from the east, west, north and south,
bring a richer meaning to the gift of our lives
awaken for others the deeper reality of the church,
the holy body and sacred bride of Christ
the gift of the Creator.

Winds from the east, west, north and south,
hear our prayers
for our sisters who have been abducted and abused,
be their protector and deliverer;
for mother earth who has been exploited and abused,
be her protector and deliverer;
for our relatives who are being poisoned and hunted to extinction,
be their protector and deliverer;

for all who struggle and find living a burden,
be their sustainer and provider.

Hear our prayer Creator, most holy Trinity.
May our lives bring you honor.
May we show all of our family respect.
May we always dwell in awareness of Your gracious presence.

Amen. May it always be so.

Now as those who come from the Creator's heart let us pray as Christ taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done 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.**