

Great Thanksgiving  
(Fully Known)

Invitation:

One: God personally invites you to come to this table. God would love for you to receive this sacrament of grace today. God knows that this sacrament is always life changing at least in some small way. Grace will change you. The love and acceptance of God will change you. Life in the family of God will change you. God wants you to be blessed today.

Confession:

**All: We are blind. We are farsighted, able to see the faults of others so clearly, even though we rarely understand what we see in the lives of others. We are blind. We miss the damage our thoughtless words and deeds are doing to others. Yet we are so thin skinned that we are easily wounded by others and find it hard to forgive them. Correct our vision, so we can focus on our own lives, our own sins, the damage we are doing to the lives of others. Help us heal our ignorance through education. Help us make restitution through our generosity. Help us keep focused on our own sins, that we might start to bring healing to the world. We are blind, Jesus, son of David, have mercy upon us, we want to see. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

One: God knows all about you. God knows exactly what you need to be made whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, who alone can heal our blindness, your sins are forgiven.

**All: God knows all about you. God knows exactly what you need to be made whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, who alone can heal your blindness, your sins are forgiven.**

Great Thanksgiving:

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: We are so glad that nothing has ever been able to separate any of us from Your love. Sometimes we forget that Your beloved community is made up of every living soul. Everyone is precious in Your sight and You feel personally attacked when anyone is neglected, injured, rejected, exploited or harmed. Because of Your presence in our lives all that we have and are is placed at Your disposal to bring healing to the world. Because of You, everything in our lives can be used for good, because of Your love, calling and purpose.

You have placed a song of hope on our lips.  
You have formed us into a choir to sing a defiant song of peace.  
You have gathered souls from every continent  
to sing praises, lifting high Your goodness that alone defeats evil.  
You have called upon all those in heaven and earth to join together to proclaim:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed are They that come in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: You are holy and blessed are we to have Jesus live among us.  
Yet in our blindness we do not always recognize his presence.  
Jesus dwells among the marginalized and forgotten,  
because You do not forget any of Your children.  
In times of war Jesus is hunkered down with the terrorized,  
the wounded, the starving and the dying.  
When there is oppression, Jesus travels with the migrants and the refugees seeking safety.  
Jesus pitches his tent in every homeless encampment,  
seeks his meals at every soup kitchen,  
finds shelter in doorways and in libraries.  
Christ promises to be with us to the end of the age,  
we can talk with him every day when we are not blind to his presence.

The disciples glimpsed Christ's epiphany  
when he left the seat of honor  
and accepted the roll of a common slave girl.  
It was hard to imagine, the Messiah of God  
kneeling with towel and basin doing the most menial labor.  
This is where Jesus is every day,  
serving as one of the least.  
We are invited to join in.

The disciples glimpsed Christ's epiphany  
when he thanked God for bread.  
This bread was a reminder of oppression.  
As this bread was broken and shared with all the people there, Jesus said:  
"Take and eat, everyone. This is my body broken and shared with all."  
We are invited to join in.

The disciples glimpsed Christ's epiphany  
when he thanked God for wine.  
This wine was poured out as a reminder of hardened hearts.  
As the cup was poured and shared with all the people there, Jesus said:  
"Drink up, everyone, This is the cup of my blood, shed in an act of nonviolence,  
an acknowledgment of God universal covenant of grace, a declaration of forgiveness

of your sins and the sins of the whole world, once and for all.  
We are invited to join in.

We choose to open our hearts and join in.  
We choose to go where Christ is  
and with our lives, proclaim this mystery:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: Compassionate Ally, Faithful Companion  
harmonize these gifts of bread and wine  
With this reality for us of the body and blood of Christ  
crying out for restorative justice.

Compassionate Ally, Faithful Companion  
harmonize these gifts of our devoted lives  
with this reality for the world of Your church,  
the present body and suffering bride of Christ  
crying out for restorative justice.

Compassionate Ally, Faithful Companion  
open the hearts of Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church  
to see the presence of Christ and to respond to his needs.  
Open their eyes to their sins and lead them to healing repentance  
as they deepen their love for the Christ who dwells among them.  
Give to them a fresh epiphany of the presence of Christ  
so they might respond with true worship.

**All: We pray with the hungry Christ,  
the shivering Christ in the cold,  
the homeless Christ, the Christ with nowhere to turn,  
by the grace given to us by the Holy Spirit,  
as an act of worship of the God of Love, the eternal Trinity,  
One God worshiped throughout the earth, now and always. Amen.**

One: Now as those who have seen Christ let us pray as we were taught, saying:

**All: 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:

**All: Thank You for sharing with us this holy mystery. It has been for us an epiphany. You have opened our eyes to see Jesus, who is in the world today. We can no longer ignore his presence. We can no longer ignore his need. Send us out to join him in the world. Use our lives as You will as expressions of Your saving, healing grace in the world. Use our lives to bring glory to Your name. Amen.**