

Great Thanksgiving
(*Get Your Evil Out of My Sight*)
Isaiah 1:16-17

Invitation:

Come, Sodom and Gomorrah, the Lord invites you to his table.
The God who sacrifices, does not want sacrifice.
The God who is truth, does not want subterfuge.
The God of wisdom wants you to silently listen.
Just stop what you are doing, God finds it a waste of time.
God wants only love from you, by being fair, giving hope, bringing cheer,
and standing up for the defenseless.
Come, Sodom and Gomorrah, the Lord invites you to his table.

Confession:

We confess that we have played at being your holy people for a long time.
You have found our pious behavior comical seeing it all as a sad show.
You see right through our religious veneer. What we call worship, you call a
joke. We are sorry that we have not only wasted your time, but that we have also
offended you. Today we repent and choose to give you what you want. The
worship you desire through daily acts of compassion, encouragement, and grace.
May our worship to be a living expression of your love to all those in need. Lord
have mercy. Christ have mercy upon us. Amen.

Absolution:

Even though your sins are very evident, Christ has washed them all away. Now is
the day of your salvation, now is the time to become God's love to the world.
**Even though your sins are just as evident, Christ has washed them away too.
Now is the day of your salvation, now is the time to become God's love to the
world. Amen.**

Thanksgiving:

Our God cares how we treat others.
The Living God cares that we love one another.
How we treat others matters.
Our behavior matters more than our worship.
So we will praise you with our acts of kindness.
We will give our thanks by going out of our way to help others.

Loving Kindness, Compassionate Care
you dream of the day we will become like you.
When you look at us, your hope is to see your own grace reflected.
You struggle to answer the cries of the poor,
and feel encouraged when we lend a helping hand.
Your heart breaks for those struggling to survive,
and feel appreciated when we come to their aid.

Nothing we do for others is ever wasted,
in your eyes it is the fullness of our worship.

This is why we join hand in hand with people all over the world
to work for peace and for the healing of our world.
Acts of love express the true worship surrounding your throne.
When we show love toward our enemies and lift up prayers for those who seek
our harm, it is music to your ears and brings joy to your heart.
Together we proclaim:

**We seek you when you are hungry;
We seek you when you are thirsty;
We seek you when you are lonely;
We seek you when you are in need;
We seek you when you are ill;
We seek you when you are locked away;
And we know however we treat the least, we have treated you.
Accept our worship today.**

We do seek your presence, in the ways that Jesus did.
Jesus saw your incarnation in every life:
In the eyes of every child;
In the tears of the widow;
In the touch of desperation.
Jesus heard your voice from common lips:
From the mouths of babes;
from the growling stomachs of the hungry;
Even in the sounds of an angry mob.
Jesus felt your calming touch:
As a babe in his mother's arms,
When touching the untouchable,
When placing spittle and mud on blind eyes.

When Jesus left his seat of honor
and knelt with towel and basin
it was your feet, O God, that were washed
as an act of holy worship.

When Jesus took the bread
used to remind the free of those still in bondage,
With prayer Jesus gave himself to You by breaking bread, saying:
"Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for you."
This is true worship.

When Jesus took the cup
used to proclaim hope for the future,

with prayer Jesus gave himself to you by the pouring of wine, saying:
“Drink with me, for this is the cup of my blood
offered freely in celebration of God’s eternal and everlasting covenant of grace,
the promise of the forgiveness of not only your sins but the sins of all.”
This is true worship.

We wish to worship truly.
Not just with words and ritual actions,
but like the Christ we want to proclaim it with our lives,
declaring this eternal truth:

**Christ’s death was true worship.
Christ’s resurrection was true worship.
Christ’s return is worship in spirit and truth.**

Purifying Water, Honest Rebuke
bless these gifts of bread and wine
set them apart to become for us
The body and blood of Christ.

Purifying Water, Honest Rebuke
bless the gift of our lives
set them apart to become for others
your church, the body and bride of Christ.

Purifying Water, Honest Rebuke
Touch the hearts of all who seek you,
and those you wish would try.
Soften our hearts that we might feel the pain of others.
Open our ears to hear the cries of others.
Take away the scales from our eyes that we might
see our lives and our world as you see them.

**May our lives forever be praise to Christ.
May our lives forever be thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit.
May our lives forever bring glory to you who art the essence of Love.
That you most sacred Trinity be worshiped and adored by all,
always. Amen.**

Let us now pray together after the model set before us by Christ:

**Honesty, Integrity, Compassionate Love,
Whose desire is for a world of wholeness, mercy and grace.
Empower us with the means so that everyone is fed.
Forgive us for the damage we have brought to the lives of others,
as fully as we have forgiven others for their damage to us.**

**Empower us to always do good and keep us from harming anyone.
For you care for the powerless, lift up the lowly,
and call the outsider your friend.**

Amen.

Prayer after communion:

We are not worthy to join with you in this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. Yet you have poured out upon our lives grace upon grace. We have tasted your kindness and have drunk deeply of your mercy. Now we beg the favor of being sent out in your name, to love others on your behalf. May our lives lead others to your great mercies found in this sacrament, that we might all enjoy eternal life surrounded by your love. Amen.