

Great Thanksgiving  
*(God of the Living)*

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.**

You are life.

Out of Your creative heart springs forth all that is living.

As long as You are present there can be no death.

Thank You for the gift of eternal life,

where You never ever leave us,

and where it is impossible for You to forsake us.

Your will is health.

Your will is salvation.

Your will is evolution and growth.

It is Your desire that no one perish,

and You are filled with hope for us all.

You plead with us to repent from all our self harm.

You beg us to turn away from all destroys Your glorious creation.

You struggle to teach us to love as You love

and to hold all life in our hearts as sacred.

You strive with Your bold imagination to make all things good,

even when we have done our utmost to work against You,

seeking to harm, desecrate, and destroy those whom You love.

Yet You still see hope in us.

You still see love in us.

You still see the possibilities of joy in our misbegotten lives.

And so we struggle to sing Your praises, with those we do not love,  
those we do not understand, with those we fear and detest.

And as we struggle, we are joined in our worship by the choirs of heaven, of saints and angels  
with every language proclaiming:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You, O Gracious Love are holy,

and so is Jesus Christ, whom you sent.

Your desire was to bring peace upon the earth,

and to inspire good will between us all.  
When Christ called the twelve,  
they were enemies, not friends,  
they did not agree on anything but You.  
Christ reached out to those who were shunned;  
Touching with love and tenderness those others would stay clear of.  
Jesus cared for the chosen and the unchosen,  
the important and the unimportant,  
those who thought they were holy and those who knew they were not, even a thief upon a cross.

To bring life,  
Jesus gave up pretense,  
and embraced service,  
ministering to all who were open.  
We too are invited to be givers of life.

To bring life,  
Jesus blessed bread,  
remembering all who struggled under oppression.  
Breaking the bread, Jesus said:  
“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.”  
We too are invited to be givers of life.

To bring life,  
Jesus blessed the cup,  
remembering the human cost of our sins.  
Sharing the cup, Jesus said:  
“Drink with me, all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,  
poured out in testimony to God’s eternal covenant of forgiveness, with you and with all.”  
We too are invited to be givers of life.

We do want to become givers of life,  
as we follow Jesus the source of all life upon the earth.  
We have found Jesus to be the way, the truth and eternal life,  
and we dedicate ourselves to follow this holy path as we publicly declare this holy mystery:

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

Past, Present, Future, Infinite Life,  
reveal through these gifts of bread and wine,  
to be for us the living presence of Jesus Christ.

Past, Present, Future, Infinite Life,  
reveal through the gift of our lives  
to be for the world Your church,  
the living presence and resplendent bride of Christ.

Past, Present, Future, Infinite Life,  
bring salvation to all who are here.  
Bestow on all your free gift of eternal life.  
Allow all to experience in the here and now  
the glory of their heavenly home found only in You.  
For this is eternal life, knowing Jesus Christ the only begotten son of God, revealed through the  
Holy Spirit, and blessed by Your attentive presence now and always.  
**Amen.**

Now as those embraced by heaven, let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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.**

*Prayer After Communion:*

We give You thanks for the life we have found in this holy mystery. Jesus has given us life in all of its abundance. We have received so much love that we cannot possibly contain it. We must share it.  
Send us out with your blessing, to bring the same eternal life we have found as a gift to others. That others will come to rejoice with us, in knowing more fully the life we have found in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.