

Great Thanksgiving
(*Green Hope*)

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.

May You receive our praises,
even as the first sprigs of fresh green hope arise before You:
a hope for a future You have not yet created;
a hope for a tomorrow You form fresh from our dreams each day.
This green hope, springs from the imagination of Your heart
brimming over with a billion, billion possibilities of the blessings You hold for us.
We are humbled by all the good You plan for us.
It is always so much more than we have ever believed or thought possible.
Yet nothing is impossible for You.

So we sing our hallelujahs!

We join the sound of our voice with the voices of all creation, to add our hallelujahs.

We join the cacophony of sounds of heavenly praise pouring out of heaven, proclaiming:

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

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are They who come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, and Your holiness is reflected in Jesus Christ, the hope of glory.
This is the green hope first seen in the bright eyes of Jesus by Mary,
then by humble shepherds and inquisitive Magi.
A hope picked up by the elders in the temple,
when interacting with a young lad bubbling over with questions.
This hope filled the heart of John when Jesus came to him for baptism,
and was shared by the men and women who answered an invitation to become disciples.
This hope became full grown and brilliant on Easter,
and filled with fiery power on Pentecost.
It is this same green hope that sprouts in the soul of every new believer.

For those who find themselves struggling as the least of society,
Jesus planted the seeds of hope,
taking the form of the lowest slave,
kneeling before any and all to care for their deepest needs.
Proclaiming that the slave was the greatest of all.

Remember and receive hope.

For those struggling under the weight of oppression,
Jesus planted seeds of hope,
becoming the blessed Passover bread infused with a hope of freedom,
breaking this bread Jesus shared it with all:
“Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for you.”
Remember and receive hope.

For those struggling under the weight of sin,
Jesus planted seeds of hope,
becoming the blessed Passover wine infused with a hope of salvation,
pouring the wine Jesus shared it with all:
“Drink, all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
given freely to reveal God’s eternal covenant of grace,
promising forgiveness of your sins and the sins of all creation.”
Remember and receive hope.

We have received hope,
and see the tender green shoots of new life,
the living expression of the holy mystery we have seen in Christ
and now boldly declare:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Perpetual Promise, Verdant Possibility,
burst to life in this bread and wine,
causing them to become for us
the body and blood of Christ
a reason to hope.

Perpetual Promise, Verdant Possibility,
burst to life in us, your disciples,
causing us to become for the world
Your church, the body and bride of Christ
a reason to hope.

Perpetual Promise, Verdant Possibility
touch the lives of Taesung and Mina filling them with green hope
as they prepare to begin a new phase of ministry
as You start to do with them a new thing:
fill them with renewed joy and peace,
deepen their relationship with You and each other,
energize them for the work of grace ahead of them
as they surround their lives with our prayers.

We pray, filled with the love of Christ,
We pray, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit,
We pray, filled with the wonder of our Creator,
Knowing that this Holy Trinity will lead and guide
our friends and us, not only now, but in the many days to come.
Amen.

Now I invite you to pray together as Jesus taught us, praying:
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:

Thank You for sharing with us this holy mystery centered in Christ Jesus. In this mystery we have found the very seeds of hope that bring renewal to our lives. Now send us out, that we might plant these seeds of hope in the lives of others. Allow us to see the splendor of green hope blossom in the world around us, that the whole world might join us in singing Your praises.
Amen.