

Great Thanksgiving  
(*Hot Cross Buns*)

(Tune: Hot Cross Buns)

One: Crucified.  
Buried with spice.  
Freed us from death;  
Eternal life.  
Sing your praise!

**All: Crucified.  
Buried with spice.  
Freed us from death;  
Eternal life.  
Sing your praise!**

One: We do sing Your praise knowing of Your broken heart.  
We offer You our worship as You darken the sky with grief,  
and kiss the face of Christ with Your tears.  
We have broken Your heart with our cruel self-righteousness.  
We have turned from grace and love,  
to shout crucify to the one You love with Your very soul.  
In our delusion we did not know what we were doing,  
like so many other times we believed with all our heart our evil was Your will.  
Thank You for forgiving our ignorance.  
Thank You for forgiving our cruelty and betrayal of Your beloved.  
Thank You for showing us mercy when we showed Jesus no mercy at all,  
but tortured him, mocked him, and lynched him.  
We denied him the restorative justice You so graciously offer to us all.  
May our gratitude give solace to Your profound grief.  
May the whole of creation join in our humbled praise.  
May all those in heaven join our reverent hymn before Your throne:

(Tune: Hot Cross Buns)

One: Hosanna!  
Hosanna!  
God is holy!  
God is holy!  
Hosanna!

**All: Hosanna!  
Hosanna!  
God is holy!  
God is holy!  
Hosanna!**

One: God, You are holy, merciful, gracious and kind,  
we know this because Jesus was our Immanuel, God with us.  
Jesus came to show us who You are and who we are as Your children.

Jesus showed us how to live with humility, compassion and self-sacrifice.  
Jesus taught us how to return only good for all the evil our world inflicted him with.  
Jesus showed us how to bless our enemies and those who persecute us and not to curse.  
Jesus taught us that greatness is found in our service to others.  
We rejected his teachings and we crucified him on a cross seeking to mock and humiliate him. It was our evil that hung Jesus on the cross, but it was Your compassionate love for us that kept him there.

Today we open our lives and seek to follow Your way of life seen by us in Jesus Christ.  
We choose to leave our places of honor and to kneel before those who will betray us to harm, who will deny us friendship, and who will choose to flee and not stand by our side when injustice is done to us.

Today we open our lives, and seek to follow Your way of life seen by us in Jesus Christ.  
We choose to be like Jesus who took the bread used to give hope in times of persecution, who blessed You for that hope, taking the bread, and breaking it to share with all. We say with Jesus:

**All: "Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for others."**

One: Today we open our lives and seek to follow Your way of life seen by us in Jesus Christ.  
We choose to be like Jesus who took the wine used to spark repentance for the pain caused by our sins, who blessed You for Your restorative justice, took the cup to share it with all. We say with Jesus:

**All: "Drink with me, each of you, for this cup is the cup of my blood, my life poured out as a sacrifice to honor God's eternal covenant of forgiving grace with all the world."**

One: Today we open our lives, to follow the crucified Christ,  
to smell the rich perfume of spices wrapped with his body broken and wounded by our iniquities. Today we choose to proclaim clearly with our lives and our words, the mystery of our faith found in Jesus:

(Tune: Hot Cross Buns)

One: Christ has died.  
Christ arose,  
for us all.  
For us all,  
Christ will come.

**All: Christ has died.  
Christ arose,  
for us all.  
For us all,  
Christ will come.**

One: Odor of Sanctity, Spice of Life  
use these gifts of bread and wine  
to become for our lives the body and blood of Christ  
that has transformed all creation.

Oder of Sanctity, Spice of Life  
use these gifts of our very human lives  
to become for the lives around us  
your church, the servant body, and sacrificial bride of Christ  
that has transformed all creation.

Oder of Sanctity, Spice of Life  
infuse our lives with the scent of Eternal Life.  
Use us to fill our world with renewed hope.  
Use us to bring to the world gifts of mercy and compassion.  
Use us as examples as we all seek to follow the ways of Christ.

So that all creation will join us in our love for Christ,  
So that all creation will produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit,  
So that all creation will experience your loving presence in their lives always,  
and join with us in worship.

(Tune: Hot Cross Buns)

One: Let it be.

Let it be.

Blessed Father,

Son and Spirit.

Let it be.

**All: Let it be.**

**Let it be.**

**Blessed Father,**

**Son and Spirit.**

**Let it be.**

One: Now as those who choose to take up their cross, let us follow Christ in prayer:

**All: 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 are humbled and thankful for this holy mystery expressed in the life and death of Jesus Christ. We can smell the spices that remind us of his great sacrifice, like the smell of funeral flowers. Thank you, that in these smells we can find the hope eternal life, use the spices of our own lives as we go out, to bring others to a knowledge of the salvation that is theirs and the profound love that already surrounds them and us. May all the world join us in giving You thank always for this great gift. Amen.