

Great Thanksgiving  
(Included)

Nothing can separate you from the love of God.

**Lord, have mercy upon me, a sinner.**

As far as the east is from the west, so has Love removed your transgressions.

**My greatest wisdom is but foolishness in Your sight.**

Rejoice in the God of our Salvation.

**For Your Love is great and greatly to be praised.**

Your greatness is more than enough to include us all.

Although our sins are as scarlet, and with not help from us,

You have washed them all away.

We who were nobody, excluded by all,

are now adopted into Your family, and are embraced as Your beloved children.

Because You choose to be for us, it does not really matter who is against us.

If You approve of us, that is all that matters, frustrating all who insult us and seek our harm.

The world may reject us, but we know that You have never left us nor ever forsaken us.

You call us by name and claim us as Your own.

So we the excluded, the rejected, the hated, the dispossessed,  
those the world claimed were unlovable, and unredeemable, praise You.

We whom the righteous condemned to the fires of hell, praise You.

We, the misunderstood, the unrecognized, the nobodies, praise You.

We, the unwanted, the underappreciated, the refuse of the world, praise You.

We are amazed by Your mercy.

We are awed by Your grace.

We are stunned by Your sweet compassion.

**My heart is humbled.**

**My head is not held in pride.**

**Not seeking greatness,**

**Nor things too wondrous.**

**I am calm and contented**

**like a weaned baby.**

**Safe with my Mother**

**I'm satisfied with Her care**

**Waiting with the Lord.**

*(Psalm 131)*

We do feel secure in You through Jesus Christ.

In Him it does not matter if we are judged believers or unbelievers,

successful or failures, or if we were designated male or female at our birth.

We find inclusion in our Savior.

Jesus understands what it is like to be shamed and ridiculed of bullies.

Jesus knows about being rejected and labeled a child of the Devil.

Jesus knows what it is like when your hometown wants to kill you.  
Jesus does not send us away, even when other followers have asked him to.  
Jesus casts out our demons.  
Jesus makes us clean, whole, and acceptable to God.

Jesus included everyone  
when as a servant, knelt to wash feet:  
the betrayer, the denier, the deserters, the unnamed.  
The love of God is inclusive, none are denied.

Jesus included everyone,  
when prayerfully the bread was broken:  
“Take eat, this is my body given for you.”  
The love of God is inclusive, none are denied.

Jesus included everyone,  
when prayerfully the cup was passed:  
“Drink with me all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,  
poured out faithfully proclaiming God eternal Covenant of forgiveness  
with you and with all who will believe.”  
The Love of God is inclusive, none are denied.

Jesus did include everyone: men and women, the young and the old, conservatives and liberals,  
the just and the unjust, the righteous and the unrighteous.  
This the hope we find in the Gospel of Jesus Christ expressed in this great mystery of faith:

**Christ was murdered by sinners.**  
**Christ arose with the power to save sinners like us.**  
**Christ will always come again to save those pray for salvation.**

Gracious Embrace, Welcoming Hug  
Use these gifts of bread and wine  
and allow them to become for us the body and blood of Christ  
who includes all at His banqueting table.

Gracious Embrace, Welcoming Hug  
use the gift of our lives, our goodness, our wickedness and our imperfections  
and allow them to become for the world, Your church,  
the sacred body and beloved bride of Christ  
who includes all at His banqueting table.

Gracious Embrace, Welcoming Hug  
surround all who feel excluded and unloved  
with us, Your holy and living presence.  
Love them just as they are, through us.  
Delight in them as precious children, through us.

Heal their wound, physical, emotional, and spiritual, through us.  
Only then are You worshiped. O Christ.  
Only then are You honored, most Holy Spirit.  
Only then are You glorified, wondrous Creator of us all.  
For it is our desire not only for You to receive from us all honor, glory, and devotion,  
but that all may be encouraged to join us in singing Your continual praise, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. And amen.**

Now as those included in the family of God,  
let us join with Christ in praying the way He 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 for give 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:*

Words cannot fully express our gratitude for being included to receive the blessings of this Holy Mystery in Jesus Christ. We feel Your acceptance, Your forgiveness, and the invitation to enter into a new life in Your presence. Open our hearts and minds that we might include others this experience of grace just as You have included us, so they too may feel safe and secure and Your peace that is beyond all comprehension. May the embrace of Your love fill our world through the life of Christ whom we adore. Amen.