

Great Thanksgiving
(Leadership)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: We thank You for calling us out of the miry clay,
Out of all that is unclean and unholy You have molded our lives,
and breathed into our lungs Your grace.

We give You heart felt praise for speaking our names
when we know in our own hearts that we are nothing but dust and ashes,
yet in these common clay pots,
You have filled us with the amazing treasure of Your grace.

We are not worthy to even raise our eyes into heaven,
but we are so bold as to cry out for Your mercy to be shown us in our sins,
and we feel the joy of Your heart warming response.

**All: I belong to You.
Send me wherever You want.
Choose my usefulness.**

**You can choose my task,
Even if it brings suffering.
I'm employed by You.**

**You can fire me.
You can fill my life with honor.
You can humble me.**

**Fill my life with Yours,
And empty my life from me.
You are everything.**

**I can be nothing.
I give to You my whole self
To enjoy and use.**

One: We want to lead with Your grace.
We want to lead with the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Jesus, You never claimed to be important,

but lived humbly as the servant of all.
Jesus, you do not force others to take up their cross and follow,
but invited us to deny ourselves to bring salvation to others.
Jesus, Your call is inclusive, touching everyone:
the rich young ruler and the simple laborer,
Thirsty women and crooked entrepreneurs,
Those with their tormenting demons and those labeled by the world as unfit,
a few of us may feel like we are God's chosen,
but most of us don't feel we stand a chance,
our sins are ever before us.

No matter how lowly we think we are
Jesus, you kneel before us to serve,
to remove our filth,
to bind up our brokenness,
to release our bonds,
To become with you,
the least,
the last,
the lover of souls.

As God's beloved,
Jesus remembered the plight of hopeful refugees
when he took the bread with a grateful heart, inviting all:
"Take, eat, this is my body given for you."

All: We will remember.

One: As God's beloved,
Jesus remembered the plagues that fell upon the Egyptians
when he took the cup with a grateful heart, inviting all:
"Drink with me all of you, for this the cup of my blood testifying to God's promise to
forgive your sins and those of the whole world."

All: We will remember.

One: We do remember and we desire to reflect Your life in Christ.
We long to enter into the holy mystery proclaimed
by a vast cloud of witnesses who have gone before us
even as we proclaim:

**All: Christ has died for us.
Christ has risen from the dead.
Christ will come again.**

One: Mantle of Grace, Bond of Servitude
express through these gifts of bread and wine

the gracious presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ,
the one we worship and adore.

Mantle of Grace, Bond of Servitude
express for the world through our lives gathered here,
the gracious presence in your church, the body and bride of Jesus Christ,
the one we worship and adore.

Mantle of Grace, Bond of Servitude
fall upon these your servants as they offer You their lives.
Empower them to serve all those in need of Your grace.
Give them the gift of wisdom as they wholly depend upon You.

**All: Receive the praise of our hearts, O Christ.
Receive our humble and contrite hearts, O Spirit.
Receive the openness of our hearts to do Your will, O Creator of us all.
That You may only receive glory, honor and praise,
through your church now and always. Amen.**

One: Now as the servants of Christ let us pray with his words:

**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.**