

Great Thanksgiving  
(Leadership)

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 who are the leader of our souls,  
Than you for seeking to guide us in all we do.  
You who seeks to order our steps,  
we are grateful that You would seek to inspire us to love more fully,  
to extend mercy to the undeserving,  
and to listen more intently for Your clear voice  
speaking through the other.  
You, whom we follow along the narrow way,  
seeking to expand our horizons,  
opening our hearts to new possibilities,  
and propeling us into the lives of others who seek Your touch,  
this fills us with such gratitude.  
You have brought us to these moment of worship,  
inviting us to join with others in one accord,  
inviting us to find a harmony so all might have their part,  
inviting us to join the great throng of witnesses,  
before Your throne of grace crying out:

**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 are holy and we are blessed with the presence of Christ.  
We have accepted the invitation to come and follow.  
To lead like Christ has led us,  
by emptying himself all divine privilege,  
by humbling ourselves to be the servant of others,  
even to the point of sacrificing our lives for the salvation of others.  
To be a leader, Christ calls us to greatness,  
the greatness of being the lowest servant of all,  
ready to do even the lowliest task for Your glory,  
and as an expression of our devotion to You.

As an act of leadership,  
Jesus forsake social convention,  
took the towel and basin and washed the feet of all.  
This was leadership, and how Christ wants us to lead.

As an act of leadership,  
Jesus took the bread of rebellion with thanksgiving,  
“Take and eat, all of you, for this is my body broken for you.”  
This is leadership, and how Christ wants us to lead.

As an act of leadership,  
Jesus took the cup of consequences with thanksgiving,  
“Drink with me, all of you, for this is the cup of my blood  
poured out trusting in God’s eternal covenant, guaranteeing the forgiveness of your sins and  
those of the whole world.”  
This is leadership and how Christ wants us to lead.

Just like Jesus, we have no God but You,  
no teacher but You, no Father but You, no hope but You,  
there is no other leader for the church but You.  
So as an act of dedication, to follow the way of Christ,  
we attest to this holy mystery as we now publicly declare:

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

Hope of Humility, Primacy of Service  
sanctify these ordinary gifts of bread and wine,  
allow them to become for us something extra ordinary,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ to transform our lives.

Hope of Humility, Primacy of Service  
sanctify the ordinary gift of our lives, our calling, our leadership,  
allow them to become for the world something extra ordinary,  
Your church, the crucified body,  
and committed bride of Christ to transform the world.

Hope of Humility, Primacy of Service  
this college of Bishops of the United Methodist Church is under Your leadership,  
Quiet our voices so we will hear Yours more clearly.  
Softening our hearts so that we may feel Your tender touch.  
Open our minds to thoughts that are not our thoughts and give us a better understanding of the  
ways of grace that are not our ways.  
Unify Your Church.

We pray under the Lordship of Jesus Christ,  
relying solely upon the power of the Holy Spirit,

open to the creative inspiration of the Creator and Designer of the Universe, our Almighty God, now and always.

**Amen.**

As those seeking the leadership of Christ let us join with Him in prayer:

**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 thank You Lord for leading us into this Holy Mystery found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have found strength from this sacrament, and now go to share this same grace with others for the transformation of the world. Amen.