

Great Thanksgiving
(Luke 4.18)

Tune: Michael Rows The Boat Ashore

Leader: May the Lord be with you now, with a blessing.

Response: May the Lord be with you too, with a blessing.

Leader: You have blessed us.
You have poured out Your Spirit upon us.
Our lives have been anointed.
You have made us Your voice for justice for any who feel oppressed.
You have inspired us to be Your voice of hope to those in bondage.
You have given us Your revelation to bring forth enlightenment
and new understanding for the ignorant that they might be set free.
You have blessed us by giving us the opportunity to share with the world the
smile of Your favor.

You have blessed us, but we have too often kept Your blessings to ourselves.
Our voices have too often been silent in the face of injustice.
We have failed to inspire hope in those whose lives are bound by evil.
Our silence has not brought understanding to the ignorant.
Too few have seen Your smile upon our lips.
Yet You still call us to care particularly for the poor, the sick and the oppressed.
Entrusting us to do Your acts of Justice, mercy, compassion and service;
and to call forth Your church to follow You out into the world.
Thank You for this blessing.

This is why we join with your whole church apostolic and universal to declare
Your endless praise.

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**Response: Holy, holy is our God, our God's holy!
We seek blessing in Christ's name, to be holy!**

Leader: Jesus heard Your call.
Not using Your power for His own benefit, not even when He was hungry.
Not using Your power for His own glory, not even to become a worldly success.
Christ used Your power to become Your embodiment of good news to the poor,
to share Your demand that those bound by evil be immediately released,
to recover Your insight to those lead astray by ignorance,
to work for the liberation of all those oppressed by human society.
With a life of joy Jesus proclaimed Your favor.

Jesus heard your call to be a servant to all.
When the need arose to show hospitality,
Jesus volunteered to be the one with the honor of washing Your feet.
Jesus with grace took the towel and basin

an knelt to wash the feet of all:
those who were worthy and those who were not,
those who understood and those who did not,
and invited the church to do the same in the world.

Jesus heard Your call to do acts of Justice.
With heart felt thanks, Jesus took the symbol of oppression,
broke it, and shared it with the just and the unjust, saying:
“Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”
Jesus invites the church to do the same in the world.

Jesus heard Your call to do acts of compassion.
With heart felt thanks, Jesus took the symbol of sacrifice,
poured it in a cup and shared it with sinners in need of grace, saying:
“Drink with me, all of you, for this is the cup of my blood, poured out
as a witness to God’s covenant of forgiveness with you and the whole earth.”
Jesus invites the church to do the same in the world.

What God has done for the Church in Jesus Christ we bring out into the world.
We bring Christ’s acts of justice, mercy, and compassion.
We share God’s grace in Christ Jesus with all in need of good news, release,
recovery, liberation and Divine favor.
This is the holy mystery we boldly celebrate before the world:

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**Response: Christ, died, lives to come again, just to save us.
Christ, died, lives to come again, just to save us.**

Leader: Divine Justice, Mercy and Compassion
Awaken in these gifts of bread and wine for us,
the deeper reality of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ,
our life and our call.

Divine Justice, Mercy and Compassion
Awaken in our lives for the world, the deeper reality of Your church,
the Body and the Bride of Jesus Christ, our life and our call.

Divine Justice, Mercy and Compassion
continue to bless the order of Deacon
as they fulfill Your Divine call upon their lives.
Help each one of them as they lead Your people in ministry with the world.
Use their lives in the world to lead those who need to find Your way into the
church.
Meet the needs of your deacons as You use their lives for Your glory,
Your honor and praise.

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Response: In the name of our True God. Amen. Amen.
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen.