

Great Thanksgiving
(New Year)

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.

Thank you for years past that flood our memories.

So many blessing have come our way.

You have used so many people to bring us to this day.

Thank you for right now,

this moment,

this day,

these people,

this place,

this time.

Thank you for what comes next,

beyond our dreams,

dwelling at the cusp of our imaginations,

hungers,

desires,

and expectations,

all held in your gracious hand.

Receive our praise,

as we join with those who have been,

the faithful from ages past,

saints and sages

with angels and archangels

the grand heavenly hosts.

Receive our praise,

as we join with fellow believer in the here and now,

to share an ancient song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy and so is the Christ.

Dwelling in the splendors of heaven from the beginnings of time,

Jesus chose the spiritual path of humility.

Jesus chose the spiritual path of voluntary poverty,
to live among the poor and not the rich and powerful.
Jesus chose the spiritual path of compassion,
to touch the untouchable and to show divine hospitality to sinners.
Jesus chose compassion above law.
Jesus chose grace before judgement.
Jesus chose to give service and not demand homage.

When we acted pompous and were full of pride.
Jesus took our place and became the servant of all.
Jesus left his place of honor, and knelt to serve:
the betrayer, the denier, and the fair weather friends.
Jesus chose the way of love, inviting us to follow.

Jesus took our place.
Taking the bread of new life with thanksgiving,
Jesus proclaimed: "This is my body broken for you."
Jesus chose the way of love, inviting us to follow.

Jesus took our place.
Taking the cup of human suffering with thanksgiving,
Jesus invited: "Drink from this all of you,
this is an oblation in my blood
affirming God's eternal covenant of forgiveness with the world."
Jesus chose the way of love, inviting us to follow.

Thank you for your invitation in Jesus Christ:
an invitation to serve, to give new life to others, and to share God's forgiveness.
We accept your invitation to follow by proclaiming Christ as the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Creative Word, Amazing Imagination
open our hearts to see beyond this bread and wine
to an experience of the body and blood of Christ
Infinite Love.

Creative Word, Amazing Imagination
open the hearts of the world allowing them to see beyond our mortal frailty
to an experience of the Church, the body and bride of Christ
Infinite Love.

Creative Word, Amazing Imagination
open our hearts as we view the fresh vistas of a new year
so that we might catch a glimpse of your dreams of what it might become,
so that we might catch a whiff of the sweetness you intend,

so that we might catch the stirring of the new birth before us as you create all things new.

Thank you Christ for making all things new.

Praise you Spirit for a new flash of inspiration.

Glory to you Creator of life beyond of imagination.

May our worship always keep us open to your possibilities now and always. Amen.

Now as we enter into this new year let us do so with Christ, praying:

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.