

Great Thanksgiving
(Not About Us)

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.

Life is not about us, our hopes nor our dreams.

Life is all about You.

You are the One who creates each new day
and allows us the gift of being blessed by it.

You are the One who dreams of ways to stop injustice,
imagining ways to free those caught in oppression,
figuring out ways for the abused to find healing.

You are the only One who is allowed to judge for only You can truly discern the difference
between good and evil.

You are the only source of salvation,
it is only by calling upon Your name that we can be saved.

You are the only One who cares enough to work at blessing
every single life on this planet:
human, animal, plant and even microscopic.

So we join our voices with the cries of every animal, with every bird up in the sky. We join our
voices with whisper of leaves, the rustle of grasses, and the sounds of many water. We join our
songs with those of angels and archangels, seraphim and cherubim to say:

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 alone are holy.

You alone are good.

And Jesus is a reflections of that goodness.

Jesus did many signs and wonders,
but we are told by Jesus that they all come from You.

Jesus was wise and insightful,
but we are told by him that every word came from You.

Jesus lived a life that was all about You,
not his will but Your will was done.

To demonstrate Your desire to bless the just and the unjust,
Jesus left his seat of honor

and washed the feet of those who shared in the Passover feast,
including his betrayer, his denier, and those who would desert him.
This is how You want us to live.

To demonstrate Your desire to bless the just and the unjust,
Jesus took the bread of Passover,
blessed it as they remembered the plight of those still held in bondage. “Take and eat, this is my
body given for you.”

This is how You want us to live.

To demonstrate Your desire to bless the just and the unjust,
Jesus took the wine of Passover,
blessed it as they remembered the harsh reality of sin.
“Drink with me, for this is the cup of my blood,
poured out as a proclamation of God’s eternal covenant of grace,
forgiving your sins,
and of all those who call upon God’s name for salvation.”
This is how You want us to live.

This is the way we want to live,
because our living is all about You and the grace
You have brought into our lives through Jesus.
This is why we boldly proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Life-Giving-Fountain, Ever-Flowing-Mercy
engulf these gifts of bread and wine.
Transform them for us into the very body and blood of Christ
the only hope for salvation.

Life-Giving-Fountain, Ever-Flowing-Mercy,
engulf the gift of our lives, our hopes, our dreams, our visions.
Transform them for others, into your church,
the very body and spotless bride of Christ,
the only hope for salvation.

Life-Giving-Fountain, Ever-Flowing-Mercy,
This church is not about us,
this church is a tool in Your hand distributing Your saving grace
to the needy world around us,
humble us,
silence us,
open us to be used of You, O Christ;
Filled with Your adventuresome Spirit;
Responsive to Your creativity and artistic flare,
Maker of Everything,

and the One who alone can proclaim all things very good,
to You be directed all the praise and the glory
in every language and tongue, now and always. Amen.
With our eyes only on Christ let us follow 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 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:

Thank you for this holy mystery revealed to us once again in Jesus Christ. What we have found in him, is a pearl beyond price and a treasure whose value is worth all we have and are. Now send us out into the world to give this treasure of grace away to all we meet that they may come to know You and join with us in the song of salvation before the throne of the Lamb that was slain, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.