

Great Thanksgiving
(Not For Granted)

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 have healed our leprosy.

You have healed our blindness.

You have given us the power to walk again.

You have met our deepest needs and we will not take it all for granted.

You have made all things new for us.

You have washed away all our sins.

You have given us a new life.

While we were yet sinners You sent Your Son to die for us,
and we will not take it all for granted.

We will pay it forward.

We will forgive as we have been forgiven.

We will feed You, and give You drink; clothe and visit You.

We will take up our cross and follow You, so Your will is done and not our own,
for we will not take You for granted.

We will gather with others You have touched, healed, and delivered
from every nation, tribe and tongue and we will not take You for granted.

We will join our voices with choirs of angels, the cries of martyrs,
and all the host of heaven in their unending song:

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 Your holiness was made flesh and dwelt among us in Jesus.

We often take for granted that He emptied Himself and became a human child,

held tight by Mary,

protected by Joseph,

worshiped by angels,

To poor shepherds, a child like their own,

to the magi a great king, and to Herod someone who must die.

We often take for granted that Jesus,

healed the sick,
cast out demons,
ate with sinners,
and we forget the risks He took for the sake of others.

We often take for granted that Jesus,
would stoop to wash the feet of His disciples,
even those of Judas who would betray Him,
and those of Peter who would deny Him three times,
and we forget the utter shock of all who saw this act of grace.

We often take for granted that Jesus,
would take bread with thanksgiving,
and would share it with us saying,
“Take and eat, this is my body given for you.”
Today we remember and are grateful.

We often take for granted that Jesus,
would take the cup with thanksgiving,
and share it with us saying,
“Drink from this cup filled with My blood,
which I pour out in celebration of God’s eternal covenant of forgiveness,
forgiving us and all who call upon God’s Holy Name.”
Today we remember and are grateful.

We do not want to take for granted the great sacrifice of Christ,
nor the choice to touch our lives and make us whole.
This is why we have come before You to dedicate our lives to You,
and to proclaim with all our hearts this great mystery of the Christian faith:

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

Assumed Grace, Overlooked Presence,
Open the mystery of this bread and wine,
allow us to know the body and blood of Christ
Your payment for our sins.

Assumed Grace, Overlooked Presence,
Open the mystery of our humbled lives,
allow the world to know that we are your church,
the sacrificial body and the faithful bride of Christ
Your payment for our sins.
Assumed Grace, Overlooked Presence,
be with those who feel they are being taken for granted,

those who work so hard, with very little recognition,
those who hear more words of criticism than word of affirmation,
open our eyes to see the blessings we receive through them,
open our mouths to thank them for all they do for us,
for what we do to the least of these Your servants, we do to You,
whom we worship and adore.

Thank you, Jesus for all You have done.
Thank you, Holy Spirit for all You have inspired.
Thank you, masterful Creator for all Your work of salvation.
We take nothing for granted, because every good and perfect gift comes from You alone,
to You be all glory, honor, and praise now and always.

Amen.

Now in appreciation for all Christ has taught us, 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 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)

Thank You for leading us into this holy mystery centered in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This gift You have given us, is more than we deserve and we are forever grateful. Now use us to extend this blessing out into the world, so that others may also come into a full awareness of all that You have already given them and all that You desire to make real in their lives. Hear our pray and use our lives, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.