

Great Thanksgiving
(Personal Salvation)

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 Your personal interest in our lives.

You have always wanted what is best for us,
even when we did not understand what that was ourselves.

Thank you for being so patient with us,
understanding our limitations better than we do.

Thank you for helping us learn from our mistakes,
and give us opportunities grow in our understanding of love,
joy, peace, mercy, kindness and faithfulness.

We are so grateful that You have taken an active interest in our daily lives, always there in times
of trouble,

always listening, even to our most silent prayers.

These are just a few of the reasons we feel compelled to join with
every other creature upon the earth to bow down and worship You.

Our joy over Your attentiveness inspires us to join with the choirs of saints and angels before
Your throne, and join 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.

We are blessed by your invitation to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Christ was willing to empty himself,
in the same way we are asked,
arming ourselves like him with vulnerability.

Jesus never played it safe.

Jesus chose not to be respectable,
but went to the people who were needing to feel your presence
the most.

Jesus was open to the needs of oppressors, foreigners,
and even the contagious.

Jesus never forced himself upon anyone,
but was willing to extend an invitation even to us,

to come and follow.

Jesus came to serve and not to be waited upon,
so was more than willing to take up the wash basin
and kneel before others to serve them.
We are invited to embrace this example.

When it was time to give it all for the world,
and to remind us of the cost of our deliverance,
Jesus shared the Passover bread with thanksgiving, saying:
“Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”
We are invited to embrace this example.

When it was time to give it all for the world,
and to remind us of the real cost of our sins,
Jesus shared the cup of wine with thanksgiving, saying:
“Drink with me, all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
poured out as a testimony to God’s eternal covenant of forgiveness
with you and with all who will believe.”
We are invited to embrace this example.

We accept your invitation to be in our lives through Jesus Christ.
We too will seek to empty ourselves and become vulnerable
so that the world may experience the fullness of the Gospel.
And we willingly enter into this holy mystery we publicly declare:

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

Personal Presence, Everlasting Embrace,
enter into these gifts of bread and wine,
allow them to become for us the body and blood of Christ
so that all might know Them.

Personal Presence, Everlasting Embrace,
enter into the gift of our lives, our bodies, our minds, our spirits
allow them to become for the world, Your church,
the living body and passionate bride of Christ
so that all might know them.

Personal Presence, Everlasting Embrace,
be with Simpson United Methodist Church
and all the people who love them and are loved by them.
Be with all the people in the community that You want to have a deeper relationship with,
use us in ways that show forth Your glory and do not hinder Your prevenient grace.
For Christ, in Christ, with Christ,
with the love, joy, peace and patience of the Holy Spirit,

all glory is Yours almighty and everlasting God,
now and forever.

Amen.

Now as those graced with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ let us pray as we have been taught:

**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 Your personal presence in this holy mystery. We have experienced Your love for us in new and deepening ways. In appreciation for all You have given us in Jesus Christ, send us out now to share this gracious presence with others, that they too may know of the joy of salvation and a heart strangely warmed. Amen.