

Great Thanksgiving  
(Protected)

The one who created us, says we are protected.

**The one who formed us from the dust, says we are protected.**

We will not fear for we have been redeemed.

**We shall not fear because we are protected.**

God has called us by name, and has said, "You are mine."

**God knows my name! I am protected!**

When we pass through the turbulent waters of life, You, Lord promise to be with us.

**We are protected! The rivers we cross won't sweep over us.**

When we walk through the hot spots in our lives, You, Lord promise we won't be scorched.

**We are protected! We can dance in the fiery furnace.**

You are the Lord. You are God.

**We are protected because You have saved us.**

You have paid our ransom.

**We are protected because we are precious in Your eyes, O Lord.**

You show us honor.

**We are protected because You love us unconditionally!**

We rejoice in the safety of the Most High.

We celebrate in the presence of all our enemies.

We join with the fiery armies of God as they shout their victory:

**Our God is for us, who can stand against us?**

**Our God gave up his own son for our salvation.**

**No one can stand against God's elect people.**

**It is God who acquits us, so who can convict us?** (Romans 8:31-33)

When we were most vulnerable, God sent Jesus, Immanuel, God with us.

God sent his son so that we might know that:

**We are protected.**

When Jesus was a baby and King Herod wanted him dead,

**Just like us, He was protected.**

When the crowd was hungry, Jesus gave thanks over loaves and fish,

**Just like us, they were protected.**

When a woman was condemned for her sins,

**Just like us, she was protected.**

When the thief on the cross, asked for mercy,

**Just like us, he was protected.**

To protect us Jesus showed us how to live.

He switched places with the least among us,

to wash the feet of those who

chose to betray, deny, and desert him.  
Jesus invited them and invites us to love each other.

**We are protected.**

To protect us Jesus showed us how to live.  
During the Passover Jesus took the bread used to recall deliverance,  
blessed it and broke it and shared it with all saying:  
“Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”

**We are protected.**

To protect us Jesus showed us how to live.  
After the Passover meal Jesus took the cup used to recall injustice,  
blessed it and shared it with all saying:  
“Drink with me, each of you for this is the cup of my blood,  
poured out trusting in God’s eternal covenant, promising to forgive all the sins of the world.”

**We are protected.**

We are protected by all God has done for us in Jesus Christ.  
We are protected by the mercy that is ours in Jesus Christ.  
This is why with holy boldness we proclaim this sacred mystery:

**It is Jesus Christ who died,  
even more, who was raised,  
and who also is at God’s right side.**

**We are protected because it is Jesus Christ who also pleads our case for us.** (Romans 8:34)

Dancing Chaos, Spinning Life,  
delight in these gifts of bread and wine,  
recreate with them the body and blood of Christ  
our protector.

Dancing Chaos, Spinning Life,  
delight in the gift of our lives, our hopes and fear, our dreams and expectations,  
recreate with them your church, the dynamic body, and beloved bride of Christ  
our protector.

Dancing Chaos, Spinning Life,  
be with all who are gathered here, and those so far away.  
Protect all who cry out to You.  
Protect all who are lost and have no where to turn.  
Protect all who have given up all hope.  
Be their protector at this moment.

We ask in the name of Jesus: Love incarnate.  
We ask in the Spirit of Love.  
We ask this knowing that there no nothing more powerful than the One who is Love.

And we will rest in Your protection as we give You the glory, the worship, and the praises due your great name, now and always.

**Amen.**

Now as the protected beloved Children of God, let us pray as Jesus 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.**