

Great Thanksgiving
(Renewing Strength)

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.

Hidden Strength, Gentle Power

we stand in awe of Your healing ways.

You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

You speak with a still small voice

that carries all the wisdom of the ages.

With the whisper of your voice, You sang forth all of creation:
everything seen and everything still unnoticed.

With love You conquer all of those who stand against You,
and with mercy You alone transform stubborn hearts of stone.

You do not call us the illusions of military power,

You do not call us forcing our way, raising our voice,
or dividing sides.

You invite us to find our strength in the reality of Your love:

Your life altering;

Universe creating;

Joy infused Love.

Enlivened by Your holy love,

we join in leading the church out into the world.

Strengthened by Your holy presence,
we join with all of heaven to proclaim:

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.

There is power in Your love,

and it was made manifest in Jesus Christ.

You filled Him with Your Spirit to bring justice to the nations.

Jesus did not shout nor cry out,

or even raise his voice in the streets.

Your Messiah would not break a bruised reed,

nor put out a smoldering wick.

Without use of force nor violence Jesus brings forth justice;

not faltering,
Is not discouraged,
but with Your powerful love, establishes justice upon the earth.

Your great power and strength were revealed in Christ.
Through warm water, and a gentle touch,
with Your humility and grace,
feet were washed.
The feet not just of the just but also the unjust.
The feet not just of heroes but also those of traitors.
The feet not just of the brave but also those of cowards.
Jesus showed that You are bold and strong enough to care for all.
Your great power and strength were revealed in Christ.
Through fresh baked bread, and a thankful prayer,
grace was shared.

“Take and eat, I invite everyone, for this is my body given for you.”
Jesus showed that You are bold and strong enough to care for all.

Your great power and strength were revealed in Christ.
Through ritual prayer, and a cup of wine,
hope was shared.
“I invite everyone, to drink with me this cup of my blood, poured out freely with confidence in
God’s eternal covenant of grace, promising forgiveness to you and to all the world.”
Jesus showed that You are bold and strong enough to care for all.

We are attracted to Your tender strength revealed in Jesus Christ.
We seek to share this grace and peace,
and Your willing forgiveness for all the world.
This is why we choose to dedicate our lives and ministry to this statement of faith and heart
warming declaration:

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

Quiet Determination, Unimposing Strength
use these gifts of bread and wine
to become for us the renewing presence of Jesus Christ,
His sacred body and His precious blood.

Quiet Determination, Unimposing Strength
use these gifts of human lives
to become for the world Your church,
the renewing presence of Jesus Christ,
His sacred body and His precious bride.

Quiet Determination, Unimposing Strength
use the order of Deacons to transform the church and the world.

Allow them the grace to love with Your love.
Allow them the grace to touch with Your touch.
Allow them the grace to listen to the unheard
and the strength to become a voice for justice in Your world.

Through the strength of Jesus who poured himself out as an offering.
Through the strength of the Holy Spirit
filled with kindness, gentleness and self-control.
Through the strength of the Creator
who enjoys quiet walks with us at the cool of the day,
may our lives and our prayers,
bring others into the strength of this fellowship, today and always.

Amen.

Now as those who center their strength in Christ, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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 inviting us into this mystery of faith where we have experienced your great love for us and the world in Jesus Christ. Now we ask that you empower us to lead your church out into the world to make this grace just as real for others to the glory of Your Precious Name.
Amen.