

Great Thanksgiving
(Risking It All)

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 who are willing to risk everything for the salvation of a soul.

You have held nothing back.

There is nothing You will not give to meet the needs of others.

You don't choose between worthy and unworthy,
because none are worthy of Your sweet mercy.

You do not make a distinction between the spiritually fit and unfit,
for truly all of us have fallen short
and are in desperate need of the help only You can give.

To You the salvation of others is a pearl beyond price,
a treasure buried in a field,
that You are willing to sell all You have
so another life will be blessed
with Your extravagant gift of salvation.

This is why everyone and everything touched by Your grace
bows down to worship You whispering:

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

and leaping up for joy to shout:

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

This is why we join with all of earth and 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.

Your greatest risk was to send to us Your most beloved, Jesus.

You risked allowing Your child to be born of an unwed mother,
knowing that they could both be stoned to death,
by the self-righteous.

You risked allowing Your beloved to be born to an oppressed people knowing that a jealous king
would send troops to murder him,
and make him a refugee fleeing to safety in a foreign land.

You were not afraid to send Christ into the desert to face the devil on an empty stomach, nor
afraid to entrust Your message to unlikely disciples who were outside the norm of the acceptable
standards set by the righteous.

In Jesus Christ You were not afraid
to touch those contaminated by sin and disease;
to embrace those deemed unacceptable to society;
and to speak a truth that those in authority did not want to hear or have said.

In Christ You risked social standing
by humbling Yourself to become the servant of all.
Stooping to wash dirty feet of all who needed it,
even when they did not see the need themselves.
This is the risk You want us to make for others.

Realizing the value of risking it all,
Jesus took the unleavened bread of the oppressed,
with prayers of deep gratitude for all You have given:
“Take and eat, all of you, for this is my body given for you.”
This is the risk You want us to make for others.

Realizing the value of risking it all,
Jesus took the cup that You would not take away,
with prayers of deep gratitude for all You have given, even suffering:
“Drink with me all of you, for this is my blood sacrificed trusting in God’s eternal covenant of
forgiveness, with you and with all who will receive.” This is the risk You want us to make for
others.

You do want us to risk it all,
all we are, all we have,
all we hope to become, for the sake of the salvation of others.
We choose to dedicate our lives to this vision we see in the holy mystery we now declare:

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

Gracious Gambler, Vision of Hope,
take a chance with these gifts of bread and wine,
risk making them become for us the body and blood of Christ
that full salvation might be realized.

Gracious Gambler, Vision of Hope,
take a chance with our lives, our successes and our failures,
risk making us your church, the sacrificial body and compassionate bride of Christ, that full
salvation might be realized.

Gracious Gambler, Vision of Hope,
open our hearts to the needs of others
move us to risk everything for their salvation.
We want to risk it all like Christ,
We want to risk it all
trusting only in the provision of Your Holy Spirit.
We want to risk it all

with the hopeful imagination of the One creates each new day,
The only one true God, the lover of us all.

Amen.

Now as those who are ready to step out in faith, let us join Jesus 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 sharing with us this Holy Mystery that we have experienced afresh through this holy sacrament. Thank You for taking a chance with us and filling us to overflowing with Your grace and compassionate mercies. We will not betray Your trust and keep it to ourselves, but we will share it freely, risking everything to bring it to our needy world. May our lives bring glory to Christ now and always. Amen.