

Great Thanksgiving  
*(Seal of the Spirit)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God who chooses:

You have chosen to be our God.

You have chosen us to be your people.

You have chosen to bless us with every spiritual blessing.

You have chosen to bind your life to ours for all time.

Ours is only to humbly agree.

To say "Yes! Yes! And a thousand times, Yes!"

Thank you for Your loving kindness.

Thank you for Your great mercy.

Thank you for the abundance of Your grace towards us.

We will sing Your praises from the highest mountains,

We will sing Your praises within the deepest valleys,

We will sing Your praises in every language,

We will sing Your praises in every nation,

for You are great and greatly to be praise.

May our voices be added to the voices already around Your throne,

who sing Your praises continually, saying:

**Holy, merciful, magnificent Grace, Divine embrace of love,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed are all who come in the spirit of Your love.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, and You anointed Jesus with Your Holy Spirit

and claiming Christ as Your beloved

and declaring Your great pleasure in Jesus.

You sent Jesus into the wilderness by Your Holy Spirit

to be trained in the purpose of Your gifts and power.

The bread Christ was empowered to make was not to feed his own hungers,

but the hungers You found in others.

The opportunity Christ gained through his relationship with You was not for his popularity,

for Christ had to become less and less, so You could be seen more and more.

Christ could have found other ways to receive worldly power,

but instead sought power through being Your most humble servant to all the world.

Others wanted to boast of being the most important,  
the most powerful,

But Your Spirit led Christ to cast off every honor,

and to find his greatness as the lowest of servants,

washing feet to honor,  
the betrayer,  
the denier,  
and those who would flee to let Jesus face death alone.  
Give us this seal of Your Spirit.

At Passover Your Spirit led Jesus to take the bread,  
blessed with the memory of persecution,  
breaking it with thanksgiving saying:  
“Take and eat, this is my body given for you.”  
Give us this seal of Your Spirit.

After supper Your Spirit led Jesus  
to take the cup,  
blessed with the hope of salvation,  
Sharing it with thanksgiving saying:  
“Drink with me, all of you for this is the cup of my blood,  
poured out in proclamation of God’s eternal covenant of gracious forgiveness for you and for all.”  
Give us this seal of Your Spirit.

We too are led by Your Spirit,  
We too are sealed by Your grace,  
this is why we have made this mystery the very pattern for our lives:

**Christ has died among us.**  
**Christ lives among us.**  
**And when Christ returns, it is always among us.**

Seal of Promise, Pledge of Glory,  
bless these gifts of bread and wine,  
allow them to become for us  
the precious body and cleansing blood of Christ.

Seal of Promise, Pledge of Glory,  
bless the gift of our bodies, our souls, our minds and hearts,  
allow them to become for the world Your church,  
the precious body and the spotless bride of Christ.

Seal of Promise, Pledge of Glory,  
empower Valley Forge United Methodist Church  
with your Holy Spirit.  
Use us to bring good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
freedom for the oppressed,  
and Your favor to all the world.

We ask with Jesus, through Jesus, in Jesus  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
so that You, Almighty God, might receive  
all the glory and praise due Your most holy name,  
now and always.

Now as those sealed by the Holy Spirit, let us pray with Christ:  
**Our Creator, whose presence is heaven, holy is Your name.**  
**May this presence come, your desires fulfilled on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us what we need to survive.**  
**And forgive us all the harm we have done,**  
**with the same passion we forgive those who have harmed us.**  
**Guide our steps, so that we are directed away from doing evil.**  
**For You are present, and are empowering and inspiring forever. Amen.**

*(Prayer after Communion)*

Thank you for once again leading us deeper into this Holy Mystery of gracious love. We have been sealed by Your Spirit and fed at your banqueting table and have been enriched by being brought into your presence. Now as we depart, send us out into the world as instruments of your grace and as ambassadors of Your Kingdom. May all we invite, be open to accept your gracious invitation of love and grace. Use us to expand Your glory in all the earth in Jesus Name. Amen.