

Great Thanksgiving
(Seeing God)

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 bring us such joy every time we see Your face.

You are Love in all of its expressions.

When care and comfort is given to an adversary,
we see You more clearly.

When hospitality is shown a stranger,
we see You smile.

When good is returned for evil,
we see Your presence and rejoice.

We rejoice with all the earth as Your peace settles upon us.

We rejoice with all creation as Your love fills our homes.

We rejoice with all the saints who have gone before us as we reflect upon their lives of piety
and with all the angels of heaven we proclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of powe and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are they that come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are most holy, and we have experienced Your presence among us in Jesus.

Whenever even two of us gather together in Your name,
there you are!

Right there!

Whenever we show even common hospitality,
sharing a cup of clean cool water or a piece of fresh baked bread:
it is You who take the cup and drink refreshed.

It is You who arise from the meal delighted.

Whenever are called upon to be a care giver,

We are honored, for it is always You whom we care for.

Whenever we visit the incarcerated,
we find that You are the one who dwells behind prison bars.

The disciples could not imagine

that they would find Jesus down on his knees before them.

Their Lord and teacher,

would not leave his seat of honor
to act as a nameless slave, would he?
But there Jesus was, seeking to wash their feet.

Later Jesus took the Passover bread,
bread used to call all to remember
how God is with those struggling in bondage.
Jesus in worship broke this bread for everyone and invited them saying:
“Take, eat, this is my body broken and given for you.”

When Jesus took the Passover wine,
wine used to call all to remember
how God patiently wears away at hardened hearts.
Jesus in worship passed this cup to everyone and invited them saying:
“Drink from this cup everyone, it is filled with my blood
poured out as an expression of God’s eternal covenant of grace
made with Israel, with you and all the world guaranteeing the forgiveness of sins.”

We can see Your presence in this sacrifice
of bread and wine.
We can see Your presence in the holy mystery
acted out through Jesus Christ, which we proclaim together:

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

Living Presence whom we can touch and see
Touch this bread and wine,
so that we can see the living reality of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Living Presence whom we can touch and see
touch our lives
so that the world may see Your church
the living reality of the body and bride of Christ in their own lives.

Living Presence whom we can touch and see
touch the lives of Your people through this church
allow them to see Your face in the faces of others as they gather in Your name;
allow them to see Your face in the faces of others to whom they extend hospitality;
allow them to see Your face in the face of every stranger out on the highways and byways of life.

For we see Jesus, when we are with Jesus, in Jesus, beside Jesus
as we are led to care for others by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit,
joining with our Creator who is working to make all things new, bringing heaven to earth
so that together we might all give You, most holy Trinity all the glory, honor and praise,
forever and ever. Amen.

Now as those who not only follow Christ but see him out in the world, let us pray as he taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.