

Great Thanksgiving
(*Syrophoenician Mother*)

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.

Thank you for loving us, with a mother's love.
You have shown us a love that never gives up
and You are always working for our salvation.
We are amazed that You never give up on any of Your children,
even the ones that only a mother would love,
always ready to come to their defense,
always quick to plead their cause.
When we do not see their worth, You always do.
When we mistreat them like a mongrel dog,
You bind their wounds and care for them as a beloved pet.
When we would not give others the time of day,
You chose to love them for all eternity.

How can we not worship You,
How could we not join our voices with every creature on earth,
and with all the heavenly host who sing continually around Your throne, proclaiming:

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.

You are holy and so is Jesus who also loves us as a hen,
seeking to gather us up and sheltering us from the storms of life under Her wings.
Just like You, Jesus cares for the under loved, the under appreciated, and the under dog.
Jesus did not turn away the Syrophoenician mother, but shared deliverance with her child.
Turning away a child in need of a blessing, always brought Christ's rebuke.
It would be better for us to tie ourselves to a millstone and cast it into the sea,
than to cause even one child to lose hope.
Jesus sends disciples out, into the highways and the byways to find those in need of care,
and invites them to be honored guests at Your banqueting table.

When others worried about their own greatness,
Jesus gladly that up, for the honor of humble service.
Jesus invites us to love as You have loved.

During the Passover, Jesus connected the past, the present and future.
Taking the bread all remembered God's deliverance.
After thanking You, Jesus broke it and shared it, saying:
"Eat this bread all of you, for this is my body given for you."
Jesus invites us to love as You have loved.

After the meal, Jesus connected the past, the present, and future.
Taking the cup all remembered the cost of sin.
After thanking You, Jesus shared the cup, saying:
"Drink from this cup all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
poured out as an offering to celebrate God's eternal Covenant of Salvation
with not only you, but the whole world."
Jesus invites us to love as You have loved.

We do see Your constant love and gracious mercy in the life of Jesus.
We are drawn to You through Christ's example,
and receive it as our call each time we join to proclaim this great mystery together:

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

Mother's Cry, Compassion's Tears,
animate these gifts of bread and wine,
allow them to become for us the transforming body and blood of Christ.

Mother's Cry, Compassion's Tears,
animate the gift of our lives, all that we have and all that we are,
allowing them to become for the world Your church,
the transforming body and persistent bride of Christ.

Mother's Cry, Compassion's Tears,
move our hearts to respond to the needs around us.
Keep us from ignoring the pleas of mothers,
move us to respond with expressions of Your mercy.
Empower us to cast out demons in your name,
that children may find deliverance from their torment.

We pray in the name of the One who never turns us away, Jesus.
We pray in the name of the One who gives us manifestations of the Divine Presence, the Holy Spirit.
We pray in the name of the One who has created, is creating and who makes all things new, You, Almighty God, who alone deserves all our heart felt praise and gratitude now and always.
Amen.

Now as those who are loved by God let us pray as 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.**