

Great Thanksgiving  
*(The Face of 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.**

Thank you for revealing Yourself to us.

Everywhere we turn, You are there.

Whomever we see, You are there.

We hear the sound of Your voice in the sound of every child  
and in the voice of all our critics.

We wrestle with You through out many nights,  
and we often greet the dawn with a limp and Your blessing.

We are never out of your presence, no matter where we go,  
no matter what we do, and no matter how hard we try.

Your loving presence will never leave us,  
and it will never forsake us.

This is why we can see Your face,  
sometimes smiling, sometimes crying,  
sometimes wincing and sometime laughing.

Whenever two or more of us gather, if we open our hearts,  
we can see that You are in this life with us.

You dwell in the praises of Your people,  
so we join with everyone we can,  
the people we like and those we don't,  
the people we trust and those we are leery of,  
those we are comfortable around,  
and those who make us feel uneasy,  
just so we can feel the fullness of Your presence.

You dwell in the praises of your people,  
not only of those on earth but also in the midst of those in heaven bowing down before Your  
throne, and we join them in saying:

**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.**

We are in Your holy presence, and in the presence of Immanuel, Christ with us.

Jesus has established Your living presence in everyone.

Whatever we do to even the least worthy person on earth,

we are doing to You.  
Whatever we say even in anger to anyone on earth,  
it is our solemn prayer to You.  
Whenever we serve the needs of another, it is holy worship,  
for it is our gift to You.  
This is why You urge us to love each other, even our enemies.  
This is why You want us to reconcile  
with those who have anything against us.  
This is why You sent Jesus,  
to show us how to forgive  
those who do not know what they are doing.  
Jesus was the greatest  
because there was no one He would not stoop to serve.  
There was not a foot, He would not wash,  
a mouth, He would not feed,  
nor an outcast He would not embrace with Your love.  
We are invited to love all as He has loved us,  
and see the face of God.

On the night of betrayal,  
Jesus took with gratitude,  
the bread set apart to remember God's deliverance.  
Jesus broke this bread and shared it saying:  
"Take and eat, everyone of you, for this is my body, given for you."  
We are invited to love all as He has loved us,  
and see the face of God.

After the Passover meal,  
Jesus took with gratitude,  
the cup that was set apart to recall cost of sin.  
Jesus shared this cup saying:  
"Drink with me, everyone of you, for this is the cup of my blood,  
poured out as my witness to the power of God's eternal Covenant  
of forgiveness made with you and the whole earth."  
We are invited to love all as He has loved us,  
and see the face of God.

We have seen Your face.  
We see Your face now.  
And we desire to see it again and again.  
This is why we choose to embrace with our whole heart this holy mystery of our faith:

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

Smile of Mercy, Tear of Grace  
allow this common bread and wine,

to become for us the transformative body and blood of Christ.

Smile of Mercy, Tear of Grace  
allow our common lives, our hopes and dreams,  
to become for the world the church, the transformative body and faithful bride of Christ.

Smile of Mercy, Tear of Grace  
be with families in turmoil,  
inspire them with hope to rebuild trust,  
give them strength and perseverance  
to wrestle with Your place in their lives,  
and as they open up their hearts to reconcile with others,  
allow them to see the love on Your face.

We make our requests seeking to bring glory to Christ,  
We make our requests seeking the in filling of the Holy Spirit,  
We make our requests knowing that You are still creating  
and able to make all things new.  
Hear our prayer and receive our praise, now and always.

**Amen.**

Now as those who have seen the face of God, let us join together and 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:

In this holy mystery You have given us a glimpse of Your face. You have blessed us with  
forgiveness and a fresh start in Jesus Christ. Now open our hearts that we might see You in the  
lives of others, and share with them and you, these same blessings you have given us. May You  
be glorified in all we say and do through Jesus' love. Amen.