

Great Thanksgiving
(The Potter)

The Potter has formed you.

We are just clay dug from the earth.

The Potter delights in Your creation.

We are wondrously and awesomely made.

Let us give thanks for the hands that have shaped us.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

From the dust of the ground You created us in rich earthy tones.

With Your own hands You have shaped our lives,
through history, through experience, through inspiration.

You have used everything,

that which has seemed good, and those that seemed tragic.

You have used everything,

our worst failures, even more than our prideful accomplishments.

You have used everyone,

our most blessed friends, our detractors and our sworn enemies.

Your work is on-going, as You adapt our lives to fit Your next purpose:

Breaking a piece off, here, and adding something new, there,
adding a stunning glaze, and placing us in the kiln yet again.

And so with all Your creation in heaven and on earth, we sing:

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after thy will,

while I am waiting, yielded and still.

(Words: Adelaide A. Pollard Music: George C. Stebbins)

In Jesus, Your creative touch has dwelt among us;
shaping our lives with words of wisdom and authenticity;
shaping our lives with actions of grace and humility.

In Jesus, You changed our perception of greatness,
the one who fulfills Your purpose is like Jesus, the servant of all,
the one the world counts as the least important, we now know is the greatest,
the one you are striving to make us become.

As a skilled potter,

You used Jesus to transform us.

The greatest knelt before

squabbling humanity

and washed their feet.

Not just the obedient ones,

Not just the faithful ones,

Not just those of the brightest and the best,

but everyone's feet.
Remember and let the Potter shape you.
As a skilled potter, You used Jesus to transform us.
As Christ took the Passover bread,
the reminder that there are still those crying out for freedom,
blessed the bread, broke it and gave it to all, saying:
"This is my body given for you."
Remember and let the Potter shape you.

As a skilled potter, You used Jesus to transform us.
As Christ took the cup of Passover wine,
the reminder that sin has a very human cost,
blessed the cup, and shared it with all, saying:
"Drink with me, for this is the cup of my blood
poured out to testify to the power of God's Eternal Covenant of forgiveness,
made not just with you, but with the whole world."
Remember and let the Potter shape you.

We do remember what Jesus said and did
and we have been transformed.
Our old selves have passed away,
as You have created out of those lives something wondrously unique.
So we now seek to enter more deeply into this transforming mystery
we have found in Jesus Christ and together proclaim:

**Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only always, living in me.**

(Words: Adelaide A. Pollard Music: George C. Stebbins)

Potter's Delight, Amazing Vision
touch and transform this bread and this wine
so that they might be transformed for us into the blessed body and blood of Christ.

Potter's Delight, Amazing Vision
touch and transform the gift of us, our past, our present and our future
so that they might be transformed for the world into Your Church,
the blessed body and eager bride of Christ.

Potter's Delight, Amazing Vision
we place in Your skillful hands the clay of our lives.
Work with us to make our lives pliable.
Baptize us with Your living water.
Knead out all our stiffness and rigidity and
Pass our lives through Your fiery furnace.

Make us useful for Christ, in Christ, with Christ, through Christ
by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit,
so that all glory, honor, praise are Yours Cosmic Potter, Creator of all,
throughout all eternity.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Now as those shaped and reshaped by the hand of God, let us pray as Christ taught us, saying:

**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:

Thank you for sharing with us this Holy Mystery in Jesus Christ.
We are no longer the same and we cannot wait to see what You are yet to reveal.
Send us out, to love in bold new ways, to embrace others as You have embraced us,
and use our lives to expand Your grace in the lives of others. This is how we desire to praise
You now and always in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.