

Great Thanksgiving
(*Transcendence*)

Infinite unconditional love encompasses you.

And so are you.

Receive the grace of assurance.

We open our hearts to such grace.

Immerse your life in Divine joy and wonder.

It is only right to proclaim with glee our thanks and praise.

You are so much more than imagined.

Your reality is greater than any dream.

Our childish minds understand so little
and we project so much silliness
with such great seriousness.

Our thoughts are so small,
we become overwhelmed by Your immense wisdom,
that seems just so much gibberish to our ears.

We see ourselves as individuals,
but in Your eyes,

You sees us as wondrously intricate ecosystems,
interrelated interdependent organisms,
all of whom You know intimately,
love unconditionally and
care for eternally.

Although Your desire for us is to join in praise with all of Your creation, we tend to be choosy in whom we want to invite to worship, and so we muffle Your praise.

We find it easier to join with those who dwell in heavenly places where our prejudices do not touch, as we attempt to join in the unity of their unending praise proclaiming:

You are loving, merciful, gracious, the only good.

You are understanding, insightful, thoughtful, the only wise.

You are present, personal, joyful and ready to play.

You are giving, and forgiving, with a generosity never ending.

When Jesus was born, we thought so small that we could only see a baby lying in a manger.

When Jesus was a child, we thought so small that we could only see a precocious kid full of questions.

When Jesus was a man, we thought so small that we could only crucify a heretic from Galilee.

But Jesus is so much more and we still struggle to understand the vastness of this reality.

Jesus was eternal with You before our universe even exploded into life.

Jesus was limited to speaking in parables

because the truth was more than our feeble minds could digest.

Jesus was more powerful, and more wealthy than we could imagine,

yet lived humbly and in poverty
to enrich the lives of others
through a healing touch or word,
by feeding the hungry,
and by being a blessing those most had no time for.

When we see only the need to wash feet,
Jesus sees so much more.
Jesus sees the opportunity to love.
This is why Jesus invites us to follow in faith.

When we see only unleavened bread,
Jesus sees so much more.
Jesus sees the opportunity to love.
“Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”
This is why Jesus invites us to follow in faith.

When we see only a cup of Passover wine,
Jesus sees so much more.
Jesus sees the opportunity to love.
“Drink with me, everyone of you,
for this is the cup of my blood,
poured out as a witness to my faith in God’s eternal covenant,
promising forgiveness to you and everyone who will believe.”
This is why Jesus invites us to follow in faith.

We want to follow, and we walk in a fog of misunderstandings.
In our dimwittedness, Christ alone is the sure light we follow.
And so with wholehearted gratitude we embrace for our lives,
this mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is alive.
Christ will come again.

Reflection of Divine Love,
shine brightly within these gifts of bread and wine,
let them become more than they seem, even the body and blood of Christ,
Your blessing to all.

Reflection of Divine Love,
shine brightly within the gift of our multidimensional lives,
let them become more than they seem, even Your church,
the ever loving body and ever compassionate bride of Christ,
Your blessing to all.

Reflection of Divine Love,

deepen our humility,
help us accept the truth of our own imperfections,
open our minds to explore, questions, and learn,
that we might see You more clearly in the lives of those who seem so different from ourselves.

Our prayer is to experience the fullness of Christ.

Our prayer is to experience a more plentiful out pouring of Your Holy Spirit.

Our prayer is to experience one more glimpse of the magnitude of Your great glory.

**Our prayer is to once again become overwhelmed by the awe of Your presence
and to enter into eternal worship before Your throne now and forever. Amen.**

Now as the humbled children of God let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us: