

Great Thanksgiving
(*Transfiguration*)

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 who seem invisible, are so much more than You seem.

At times we foolishly think You are not around, when You are every where.

You are the ancient of days, yet You are new with every morning.

Every thought we have concerning You,

Every belief we hold about You,

Every idea we imagine as the truth about You,

falls short of Your glorious reality.

Our words fail us.

Our highest praise is but a clashing gong and a clanging cymbal, irritating noise.

You deserve so much more, because You really are so much more.

But if we kept silent, the very rocks beneath our feet would cry out to Your glory.

So we evangelize the whole world, to add more depth to our praise,

ten thousand times ten thousand voices to sing of Your holiness.

We boldly come before Your throne for the chance to join with the multitudes already gathered there and to join in their unending hymn:

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.

Your holiness is without compare,

and Jesus is the perfect reflection in Your likeness.

Yet Christ's appearance is deceptively ordinary.

Jesus was born an ordinary baby to an ordinary couple.

Jesus was their ordinary child with an inquisitive mind.

Jesus was baptized by John, one of the many who came to the Jordan River.

Jesus was known to be an extraordinary teacher, healer, exorcist, and miracle worker, changing the lives of many.

While Jesus looked like any other man, Jesus was so much more.

God of very God, in human vesture.

Transfigured only briefly on a mountain top,

and then Jesus was just an ordinary man once again,

doing the extraordinary work of God.

It was more than an ordinary man,
who became a lowly servant,
to wash the feet of sinners.
Yet Jesus believes we would do more than he ever did.

It was more than an ordinary man,
who took the bread of Passover,
set aside to remember the struggle of refugees.
With a thankful spirit, Jesus broke the bread and shared it saying:
“Take and eat this is my body given for you.”
Jesus believed we would do more than he ever did.

It was more than an ordinary man,
who took the cup of Passover,
set aside to remember the cost of sin.
With a thankful spirit, Jesus shared the cup saying:
“Drink from this, all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
poured out as a witness to God’s eternal covenant of forgiveness,
with you and the whole world.”
Jesus believed we would do more than he ever did.

We want to do more for Christ in the world.
We want our lives to be transfigured like Christ’s was
so the world might get a glimpse of who we are in Christ.
This is why we conform to his way, and proclaim with our lives this holy mystery:

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

Opener of Eyes, Revealer of Truth:
transfigure before our us these ordinary gifts of bread and wine,
so that we might realize that they are the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Opener of Eyes, Revealer if Truth:
transfigure before the world the gift of our ordinary lives,
so that the world may realize we are Your church,
the living body and compassionate bride of Jesus Christ.

Opener of Eyes, Revealer of Truth:
use us to help the world to see that You are more
and able to do more than is imaginable.
Use us to demonstrate what the God of love can do in a world that has forgotten how to care.
Use us to demonstrate that there is something extraordinary about what we often discount as just
ordinary.
Use us to become before a needy world what You need us to become for them and their
salvation.

With our prayers transfigure, Christ so all may see his glory.

With our prayers transfigure, the Holy Spirit into tongues of flame and a rushing wind that fills the world with God's glory.

With our prayers transfigure the ordinary, Creator God, into the extraordinary for the salvation of the world, that Your praises might be song on every tongue, and Your glory shouted from every mountain top, now and always. Amen.

Now as a transfigured people following a transfigured Christ let us pray together his prayer:

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 revealing to our souls this holy mystery in Jesus Christ. You have turned what we thought so ordinary into something so very extraordinary. We have been transfigured, and You have revealed that we are so much more because of Your love and sacrifice in Jesus Christ. We want this experience for everyone, so send us out into the world, so that we might share Christ with them. Transfigure every ordinary life so that they might glimpse their true potential through Jesus Christ. May You forever find joy in our praises through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.