

Great Thanksgiving
(Values)

The Lord is 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 are so focused on the salvation of the world,

You are never distracted,

You never cut corners,

Your desire for none to perish but for all to find eternal life.

This is more important to you, than it is to us at times.

We do lose our focus.

We do get distracted from your mission.

We even try to cut corners,

and precious souls struggle to believe because of us.

Yet you do not give up on us.

You keep trying to use us.

You keep encouraging us to be more like Christ.

Thank you.

Thank you for seeking to deepen our relationship,

softening our hearts,

and opening our eyes and ears to the needs around us.

We want you to use our lives to make the whole world sing.

We want you to use our lives to aid in your saving work to cause the whole of heaven to rejoice
and we will join with them to say:

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 holy cause is the salvation of the world,

and you were willing to sacrifice your beloved son to bring it.

You anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit

to bring good tidings to the poor,

to bind up the broken hearted,

to proclaim freedom to the captives,

to prisoners, release,

to proclaim the year of favor for the Lord.

Jesus even as an infant was a threat to the rich and powerful.

Jesus seemed like a sinner and a blasphemer

to Bible scholars and religious authorities.
Jesus was a trouble maker and an inconvenience to those in government.
But to us and to all who can believe, our salvation:
The sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

To demonstrate the value of this love
Jesus took the form of a servant,
and washed our feet and taught us its importance.

To demonstrate the value of this love
Jesus took the sacred Passover bread with a thankful heart,
remembering the lives of those who still live under oppression,
broke it saying: "Take and eat this is my body given for you."
Remember the importance of this love.

To demonstrate the value of this love
Jesus took the sacred cup of Passover wine with a thankful heart,
remembering the human cost paid everyday for our sins,
shared it saying: "Drink with me, each of you,
for this is the cup of my blood poured out in obedience,
celebrating God's eternal covenant of forgiveness
with us and all who will believe."
Remember the importance of this love.

There is nothing more important to God than our salvation,
and the salvation of all those who are still struggling to believe that they are lovable. This is why
Jesus was sent out into the world.
This is why Jesus has sent us out into the world, to seek and save the lost, whatever the cost.
This is the holy mystery that we embrace:

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

Open Heart, Expansive Grace
transform these gifts of bread and wine,
into the body and blood of Christ
for us and for the salvation of the world.

Open Heart, Expansive Grace
transform the gift of our lives,
all that we are and all that we have
into your church,

the living body and compassionate bride of Christ
for us and for the salvation of the world.

Open Heart, Expansive Grace

be with the lives of those who struggle to believe,
use our kindness to demonstrate your love in tangible ways,
use our resources as answers to their prayers,
use us to bring others into a deeper relationship with you.

Because you are the Christ the son of the living God,
and you have breathed upon us your Holy Spirit,
so that we might faithfully serve the One who has sent you,
the only true God, now and forever.

Amen.

Now as those valued by 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 as we remember all that Christ has done for our salvation. We are humbled and have seen the value you place upon every human soul. Give us now the same value system we found in Christ. Use us to share the grace and mercy we have received from you this day out in the community where we live, that all may come to know your love and Grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.