

Great Thanksgiving
(Voice)

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 see every child's tear;
who receives into Your heart every hateful word;
who feels in Your own being every punch, every kick, every slap across the mouth.
Thank You for never turning away.

You who sends forth prophets to cry out in the wilderness;
who sends brave souls to stand between the oppressed and their oppressor;
who calls us to take up our cross and willingly be crucified for the salvation of others.
Thank you for always responding to the cries of the needy.

With fasting and prayer we open our hearts.

With humility and trembling we offer our lives to Your service,
knowing that there is a chance we might not survive but others might gain their freedom.

Thank You for calling Your servants to respond to the needs of the powerless.

Whether we live or die we will sing Your praises.

Whether on earth or around Your throne in heaven we will join with angels and saints to join in
Your unending worship saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Your holiness is manifest through compassion.

This holiness is seen most clearly through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Although equal to You in every way, Jesus became as we should be the servants to all.

Jesus freely gave away all that he was, all that he had, all that You gave him, to care for the
oppressed, and distressed.

Jesus did not focus his energy on those who were well off,
but those who were sick, deprived and oppressed.

Jesus did not just focus on the needs of the in crowd, but on the needs of those he had to seek
out,

those whose struggling and suffering most refused to see.

Jesus was Your hopeful presence for those shunned by the world as totally hopeless.

Jesus was Your peaceful presence for lives tossed by turmoil.

Jesus was Your provision for those who had nothing left within themselves.

Jesus was not looking for greatness.
Jesus was not looking for others to see his goodness.
Jesus only wanted to serve,
always the first to take off his cloak,
and kneel down and scrub the filth off of others.
Jesus still invites us to be expressions of God's active grace.

Jesus saw our need, so taking the bread of Passover
used through time as a reminder to Israel of ongoing oppression,
blessed the bread, and shared it with everyone, saying:
"Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you."
Jesus still invites us to be expressions of God's active grace.

Jesus saw our need, so taking the cup of Passover
whose wine was used through time as a reminder to Israel of the cost of sin,
blessed the wine, and shared it with everyone, saying:
"Drink with me all of you, for this is the cup of my blood
poured out in celebration of God's eternal covenant of forgiveness
first with Israel, but now with the whole world, even with each of you."
Jesus still invites us to be expressions of God's active grace.

We have accepted your challenging invitation.
We desire with all our hearts to become expressions of Your active grace.
We choose to pattern our lives and ministries after Christ,
who we have found in this holy mystery we now declare:

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

Risk Taker, Burden Bearer,
reveal through this common bread and wine Your presence.
Allow them to become for our lives,
the body and blood of Christ, the price paid to the world for salvation.

Risk Taker, Burden Bearer,
reveal through our humbled lives Your presence.
Allow them to become for the lives of others,
Your church, the caring body and compassionate bride of Christ,
the price paid to the world for salvation.

Risk Taker, Burden Bearer,
fill our lives with Your living presence.
Give us a clear and steady voice that cries out with You for the needs of those given no voice.
Hear our prayer as we truly fast by using our lives to loose the bonds of injustice;
by sharing our bread with the hungry,

and by bringing the homeless poor into our homes,
by clothing the naked
and by treating least as family.
Speak to our souls voice of Christ.
Speak to our souls voice of the Holy Spirit.
Speak to our souls voice of the God who is love and endless compassion,
that we may speak in ways that bring You only glory, honor and praise, today and always.
Amen.

Now as those chosen for such a time as this, let us boldly pray with Christ 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 allowing us once again to share in this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ our Lord. Through his sacrifice we have found our voice that cries out with his heart of compassion. Through his sacrifice we have found vision that allows us to see the needs and oppression of others. We have found ways we can personally respond. Now send us out, to share Your voice, to proclaim Your vision and to personally respond, so no one should feel deserted by You and all alone. Use our lives to bring You glory and praise through Jesus Christ. Amen.