

Great Thanksgiving
(*Word Made Flesh*)

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.

It all starts with a word

It is how everything happens:

Light - dark;

The vastness of the sky;

All the variations of the land and the wonders of the sea;

All the plants from the smallest algae to the tallest redwood tree;

The sun and the moon and innumerable stars;

All the creatures of the sea, All that flies through the air

and all that crawl, walk, scurry and gallop upon the earth.

And with a word so were we.

We all join to praise You with every language and dialect and regional accent.

We all join to worship You from every nation, tribe, culture, sect, clique, and ethnicity.

We all join to proclaim Your glory, the living and the dead, the angelic and very human 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.

It was Your word that became flesh and dwelt among us.

We have seen its glory,

for it is a word full of grace and truth.

Your word was a baby in a manger;

a refugee in danger;

a child of poverty, of oppression, and hardship;

a child acquainted with grief.

Your word was misunderstood.

Your word was ignored.

Your word was abused.

Your word was pondered.

And by some Your word was believed.

As Jesus was celebrating the Passover,

As Jesus was remembering deliverance from death,

Jesus took bread with words of thanksgiving and broke it, saying:
“Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”
Your word became flesh and dwelt among us.

As Jesus was finishing the Passover meal,
As Jesus was remembering deliverance from Your judgement,
Jesus took a cup with words of thanksgiving and shared it saying:
“Drink with me, all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
The mark of God’s Eternal Covenant of Redemption for you and the whole world.
Your word became flesh and dwelt among us.

What came into being through the word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.
It is this word that we have recognized in Jesus Christ
and is the mystery of faith we proclaim:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**
Divine Grace, Holy Truth
allow this bread and this wine
to become the body and blood of Jesus,
Your word made flesh.

Divine Grace, Holy Truth
allow us, our hopes and dreams
to become the church,
the corporate body and beloved bride of Christ,
Your word made flesh.

Divine Grace, Holy Truth
Bring peace on earth this night;
Fill hearts with hope this night;
Open the doors of hospitality to all who are strangers on this holy night.

This is Christmas, in Christ, with Christ, through Christ,
in unity with the Holy Spirit whose gifts are peace, love and joy,
within the embrace of our Loving God, tonight, tomorrow and forever.

Amen.

On this Christmas Eve let us all join together in praying the Lord’s 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 sharing with this holy mystery, Your word made flesh dwelling among us. As You have embraced us with the loving presence of Christ, may we too extend Christ's presence to the world around us. Amen.