

Great Thanksgiving
(*World Communion*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the beginning You alone made the world and it was perfect.

You created fresh clean breezes, and powerful winds to sculpt Your natural wonders.

You created oscillating oceans, rushing rivers, and silent streams, all declaring Your glory.

You created flowers of every color You could dream of,
giving many a perfume that is unmatched in their delight.

The trees You created tower into the heavens, a brilliant habitat for such a variety of creatures.

You made a place for every creature, those we can see and those so small we never knew were there. Each life depending upon another for its existence.

Each and every life essential to Your masterpiece.

Thank you for placing us in such a delightful garden of Eden!

Thank you also for all people.

You have helped them find a place to live everywhere,
and in every place we have found Your abundant blessing.

According to Your great wisdom, You created us with a marvelous diversity.

We have devised a myriad of languages, each one essential for us to proclaim Your greatness.

When even one language goes silent, Your praise is diminished.

We have instituted a plethora of cultures, seeking to live out Your wisdom in great complexity.

When even one culture is eclipsed, our understanding of You is diminished.

Each and every person is essential to Your masterpiece.

Thank you for placing us within this Your marvelous family.

Together we worship Your holy name. Together we sing in praise of Your greatness. Together joining with the grand diversity of heaven adding our voices to 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 are all who come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy and so is Jesus, Your presence with us.

Jesus was born in a certain place and time, in Bethlehem at the time of Herod the King,
but continues to be found among us in every place and for all time.

Jesus spoke the languages of Palestine,

but his name is spoken in every language found in the world.

What You sent Jesus to do, was not just for one people, but for all people,
not just for some people in the world but to bring salvation to all the peoples of the world.
Your promise of grace is good news for all
and we are still instructed to go into all of the world to teach this truth.

To show us how to care for one another,
Jesus broke with custom.
The teacher chose to wash the feet of the students.
The leader chose to serve the needs of the followers.
The one others saw as most worthy cared for those who felt least worthy.
We are encouraged to do the same.

To show us how to care for one another,
Jesus took the bread of Passover,
a yearly reminder that there were still people being oppressed,
and with a prayer of thanksgiving, broke and shared it with all, saying:
“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.”
We are encouraged to do the same.

To show us how to care for one another,
Jesus took the last cup of Passover,
seen as a reminder to not give up hope in God’s promised mercy,
and with a prayer of thanksgiving, shared the cup with all, saying:
“Drink with me, this is the cup of my blood poured out believing in God’s eternal Covenant
of grace, granting you forgiveness for your sins, and for the sins of all who trust in God’s Word.”
We are encouraged to do the same.

All over the world people are crying out for what Christ has died to give them.
It is this faith, hope, and love that we feel called to share,
and so because of the truth we find in this holy mystery, we proclaim our faith in Christ:

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Gracious Breeze, Soothing Stream,
anoint these gifts of bread and wine
reveal to us through them, the body and blood of Christ
God’s expressed love for the whole world.

Gracious Breeze, Soothing Stream,
anoint the gift of our lives in all of its grand diversity
reveal to the world, through us, Your church,
the heart of Christ and compassion of his bride,
God’s expressed love for the whole world.

Gracious Breeze, Soothing Stream,

bless Your church throughout the world.
Use our great diversity to create beautiful harmonies between one another.
Help us see how we are well fitted together in Your great web of life,
so that we might be a richer blessing to all.
Open our hearts to receive each other in ways that extend Your loving presence.
Find joy through our unity, O Christ.
Find hope through our cooperation, O Spirit.
Find beauty through our interconnectedness with all, Great Triune God,
as we each seek to live according to Your will. Amen.

Now may we join with all the world to pray together, as Jesus 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 allowing us to share together in this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. Christ is the highest expression of our unity. In Christ we have been brought together through the Cross. Together we demonstrate the reality of Your love for the whole world. Now send us out with a story to tell and a song to sing for there are still some in this world who don't experience how much You love them. Use our witness. Use our service. And used our lives to be Your instruments of grace in the world. Amen.