

Great Thanksgiving
(*World Communion*)

Invitation:

All around the world Christians are gathering around the Lord's table.
Christ invited people of every language and culture to fellowship around this table.
Christ invites saints and sinners, the unimportant and those held in great esteem.
Christ invites the knowledgeable, and the questioning;
the curious and those who are stuck in their own ways.
Christ has grace enough to share with all, no one needs to be turned away.
So come and feast upon the goodness of God.

Confession:

Lord all the world is yours and all the people who are found there. Forgive us when we have not shown hospitality to those whom you claim as family. Forgive our petty nationalism, which tends to separate instead of bringing your children together. Forgive our xenophobic treatment of those whose ways are not our ways and whose though seem so strange to our ears. Forgive us for rejecting your gifts of diversity, given so that we might live long upon the earth. Today as we gather around your table help us embrace your global community with joy. When we all gather together, there you always are in the midst of us. Amen.

God loves all of their children, sharing forgiveness with all the children of the world.
You are included in God's loving care. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven of every sin.

You too are a child of God, and you are included in Their loving care. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven of every sin. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Thanksgiving:

We are all part of one enormous inclusive family.
No one has ever been turned away.
Everyone is being embraced by the one true God at this moment.
Even us!
Our God makes every heart sing.
On the lips of the multitude float our great redeemer's praised.

You are praised in every language.
You are worshiped by every culture in so many different ways.
You are called and known by many names, each of them bubbling with meaning.
You dwell in every heart and with your grace you lead each of us to salvation.
None of us are strangers to you.
None of us are outside of your care.
None of us has to find you, because you have always held our lives in your hands.
Your desire is for greater and greater unity.
You love us all as your children and want us to claim each other as family.

You call us into communion not only with you but with each other.
You see us as one people, your people, and encourage us to do the same.
Only then can we hope to create the fullness of your praise.
Together we can have ten thousand tongues to sing to your glory.
Only when your whole family is together and at peace are you pleased.
Today we want you to be pleased with our world wide worship.
Together we pray the ancient hymn that is continually sung around your throne:

Holy, holy, Holy Love, Pure light and glory.
Heaven and earth declare your beautiful compassion.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are all who gather together in your name.
Hosanna in the highest.

We are blessed to be together and we are blessed by the unity found in Jesus.
Jesus has broken down all the false binaries:
In Christ there are no more chosen people or unchosen people.
God has chosen us all.
In Christ there are no more slavery nor those who can claim their wealth as their own.
God claims us all as family and the care of family is the essence of our belief.
In Christ there is no social hierarchy, no patriarchy, no class, no racism but all are all one.
God claims that we are all beloved.
In Christ there are no outsiders, nor foreigners, nor any who do not belong.
For in paradise there is enough room for everyone.

Jesus becomes the lowest servant,
so he can bless everyone,
no one is beneath Christ.
Jesus is able to wash any foot,
heal any heart and bring salvation to any life.

Jesus became the lowest servant,
when he took the bread,
it was a reminder of those still crying out for salvation.
After reciting an ancient prayer of thanksgiving,
Jesus broke the bread for everyone, saying:
“Take this bread and eat it, for this is my body broken and given for you.”
Remember those who still cry out for salvation.

Jesus became to lowest servant,
when he took the cup,
it was a reminder of those still crying out for hope.
After reciting an ancient prayer of thanksgiving,
Jesus lifted up the cup offering it to everyone, saying:
“Drink with me everyone, for this is the cup of my blood
offered without price, as an act of devotion to the God of grace

whose eternal covenant promises the forgiveness of every sin,
yours, mine and those of the whole world.”
Remember those who still cry out for hope.

You who always hear the cries of the needy,
open our senses to the needs of those around us.
We desire to respond like Jesus, the same Jesus
we proclaim with this declaration of faith:

**Christ has died for the whole world.
Christ arose for the whole world.
Christ will come again for the whole world.**

Universal Embrace, Family Bond
unite with these gifts of bread and wine
so they become for us
the miraculous body and blood of Christ.

Universal Embrace, Family Bond
unite with the gift of our lives around the world
so they become for those in need, your church,
the miraculous body and bride of Christ.

Universal Embrace, Family Bond
unite the church and help us honor our differences.
Help us see others as family deserving of our love.
And use us to bring peace to this violent world.

**In the eyes of strangers, I see the Jesus to whom I pray.
In the words of others, I hear the Holy Spirit to whom I pray.
In the presence of my enemies, I recognized the lover of my soul to whom I pray.
May you, precious Trinity, receive the glory, honor, and respect due your name.
Amen.**

Now let us pray in the method taught to us by Christ:

**God of Unity, who makes all the peoples of earth and heaven, One,
knit us together as your diverse family.
May the food you give each day be enough to share.
Forgive our arrogance and pride,
as we forgive the arrogance and pride of others.
Lead us along the path of unity,
and deliver us from the evils of division.
For we are one family, your family, called by your name.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

All around the world we have enjoyed this time of communion forged by the mystery of Jesus Christ. Thank you for bringing us together as one people from every corner of the globe. Now as we hold this joy deep in our souls, send us out hand in hand to share the good news that all belong and that no one has to travel alone. Use our lives in you to inspire sacred community and a new vision of peace in our world. Amen.