

A GREAT THANKSGIVING
illustrating shared leadership by elder and deacon¹

Elder:

The Risen Christ with you;
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the God of mercy and grace.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Deacon:

Our souls burst forth in praise to you, God of Israel,
architect of galaxies, earth sculptor, life breather.

In you is the dawning of our hope.

In you is the life of the world.

In you are witnesses and servants of the Word.

In you are the songs of old men and young women.

In you is table and home for sinners and outcasts.

In you is the mercy promised to our ancestors.

**In you is the unseating of the arrogant
and the raising up of the poor.**

Elder:

And so,

with Mary and Martha,

with Levi and Zacchaeus,

with the forgiven woman with her tears and her perfume,

with all earth's returning prodigals

and with all whose feet want to dance but cannot.

we join all creation in heaven's unending song:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and justice,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Glory be to you, O God!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Deacon:

Holy and blessed is the mighty savior you raised up for us,

Jesus, Mary's child,

who opens the way of salvation,

leading us home to your loving arms.

Healing the sick, feeding the hungry and eating with sinners.

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he crossed boundaries
proclaiming your reign among us.
By the mystery of his incarnation, death and resurrection
he has continued with the Church
in the apostle's teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of the bread, and the prayers.

**At Pentecost your Spirit unleashed
a song-singing, story-telling, table-sharing people
from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.**

Elder:

On the night he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread and said: "This is my body given for you."
And he took a cup, gave thanks to you and said:
"This cup that is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you."

[see Luke 22:14-20]

Deacon:

In this meal of hope
liberate us by your Spirit's anointing,
to embody good news to the poor,
to declare release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free the disheartened and the abused,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith
until Christ rules in love's final victory.

Christ's death, O God, we proclaim.

Christ's resurrection we declare.

Christ's coming we await.

Glory be to you, O God!

Elder:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Let them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
in service, justice, and compassion.

[See Luke 22:24-28 and 7:11-17 and 2:46-55.]

Elder and Deacon:

Blessings and glory is yours, Mighty God,
here and everywhere,
now and forever!

(said or sung) Amen! Amen!! Amen!!!