

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

(with an elder presiding and a deacon assisting)

adapted by Dwight W. Vogel from The United Methodist Book of Worship

Elder:

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.

Deacon:

(Note: any preface "proper" to the day or season may be used)

Blessed are you, our Alpha and our Omega,

whose strong and loving arms encompass the universe,

for with your eternal Word and Holy Spirit you are forever one God.

Through your Word you created all things and called them good,

and in you we live and move and have our being.

You gather us around a table at this time and place

and call us to be a community of your people.

Elder:

In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

full of grace and truth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Deacon:

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ, who called you Abba, Father.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own

and filled them with a longing for a peace that would last

and for a justice that would never fail.

In Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection,

you took upon yourself our sin and death

and destroyed their power for ever.

You have poured upon us your Holy Spirit,

making us the people of your new covenant in him.

Elder (lifting up the bread):

On the night before meeting with death, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples,
and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

Come, Lord Jesus, bread of heaven!

(lifting up a cup)

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Come, Lord Jesus, cup of our salvation!

Deacon:

On the day you raised him from the dead
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
and in the power of your Holy Spirit
your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread
and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(sung) Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Elder:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ
that we may be for the world the body of Christ
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Deacon:

As the grain and grapes, once dispersed in the fields,
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so may we and all your people be gathered from every time and place
into the unity of your eternal household
and feast at your table for ever.

Elder and Deacon together:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever.

(sung) Amen, Amen, Amen!