

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

+The Great Thanksgiving<sup>1</sup>

(Musical Responses: Setting A)

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!**

God of the ages,  
as our ancestors have done, we too gather to give you thanks and praise.  
Thus we are called by your word to do:  
thus we are prompted by all who have preceded us in the faith of your child,  
    Jesus Christ.  
But when injustice and violence reign in our world,  
    how can we praise and thank you?  
We are surrounded by suffering throughout our days.  
In a world immersed in oppression and suffering we cry out to you:  
    How, O God, can we sing your song in an alien land?

Yet it is for this, Eternal Source of life, that we praise you.  
In our weakness, you have made yourself one with us.  
You have embraced our struggle to sustain hope.  
Our very death, you yourself have died.  
In the weak and humbled flesh of your child Jesus Christ,  
    we acknowledge your presence upon this earth.  
In him, you are embodied among the despised.  
    In his wounds, you are afflicted with all our wounds.  
    In his unjust sentencing,  
    you are condemned with all those who have no power.

But in his death, you shatter death and its dominion.  
For all this, we praise you and give thanks.  
With all those who from the dawn of time have searched for you and found you  
and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending  
hymn:

Congregation: (sung) Holy, holy, holy. . .

You are indeed holy, God of justice;  
holy is your child Jesus and holy, your Spirit dwelling in our hearts.  
Thrice holy are you, in the holiness of death's struggle,

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted by Dwight W. Vogel from David Power's Eucharistic prayer that is grounded in lament. See "The Eucharistic Prayer: Another Look", chapter 14 in *New Eucharistic Prayers*, ed. Frank Senn, New York: Paulist Press, 1987).

in the holiness of compassionate longing,  
in the holiness of life reborn in weakness.  
As your gathered people, we remember that your child, Jesus  
when opening his arms to death, took bread,  
blessed it, broke it and gave it to his companions saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Bread of affliction, bread of compassion, bread of life.  
Come, bread of heaven.

At the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it,  
gave it to his companions and said:  
Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you  
and for many.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Cup of affliction, cup of compassion, cup of life.  
Come, True Vine. Maranatha!

We proclaim the presence of your Word in our human flesh.  
We proclaim the Spirit who led him into the wilderness,  
and led him to embrace the oppressed.  
We remember your Word conquering the bonds of death  
so that through the Spirit he might continue to live  
amid the struggles of this torn world.  
Taking this bread of tears and happiness,  
taking this cup of sorrow and joy,  
we offer you all that there ever has been of human sorrow, struggle and hope,  
longing to be joined together in the depths of the human heart,  
offering ourselves in solidarity with 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.

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 might be for the world the body of Christ  
redeemed by his blood.  
Gather us into a communion of one Spirit,  
a communion of faith, love and hope,  
a communion of weakness and of strength.

Let your Spirit teach us how to sorrow, how to love,  
how to hope, how to serve, and how to praise.  
Immerse us in your justice  
and teach us new ways of being your family.

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.

Through your son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.

All: (sung) Amen