

# Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Word and Table II ♦ For Sundays in Advent - A

Adapted from: *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

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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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and the earth. In this season of Advent, we your children praise and worship you for your great glory in forming and calling us to be your witnesses to all the world. Even though we have gone astray, you have not left us without hope: you have sent us your divine revelation in your Law, in your Prophets, and in your Holy Word made flesh and dwelling among us. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join 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 is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O Lord Our God, King of the Universe. You sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our world to be our light and our salvation, the light of your love and Holy Presence. With humility, and yet in great power, Jesus took on our flesh in the form of a child in order to live and grow as one of us. In weakness and strength, he showed forth your love and followed your call, even to death upon a cross for the sake of our sins. Then you raised him from the dead to reign with you in glory, and promised his return to us in power to bring us up into your everlasting kingdom. For all this, we thank you, O God. We live in that hope and await his coming again, raising our voices in prayer and thanksgiving:

**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Come!**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his 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."

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:

**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 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.

**By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our savior Christ has taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup**

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

And the cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

### **The Prayer After Receiving**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**