

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Word and Table II ♦ For Sundays in Advent - B

Adapted from: *The United Methodist Book of Worship*



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, Holy Creator of this glorious universe. In your wisdom you made us, forming us from the dust of the earth and breathing into us your genius and love. But, like rebellious children, we turned our backs on your welcoming embrace and went our own way in ignorance and fear. However, you have not left us in the wilderness of our sin; instead, you have bridged the barriers of sin and death and have opened a way for us to leave our wilderness and enter the family of your sons and daughters. 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.

Father Almighty, we have heard the call of John the Baptist in the midst of our wilderness:

“Make straight the way of the Lord!”

We have heard his call and we have followed our Savior:

“The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

As we approach our annual celebration of the Incarnation and Birth of Jesus, we confess our amazement that your precious child, conceived in the Virgin’s womb, will be the One who suffers and dies for us, taking upon himself the sins of the whole world. We praise you for the glorious gift of salvation and eternal life, which the Christ Child offers to us without price. We hear the call to faith, to hope, to love, and to joy; and we commit ourselves to sharing the Good News of the Real Presence of Jesus with this broken and hurting world.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, the Lord Jesus 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, proclaiming to all the Good News of the Incarnation and Birth, the life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus the Christ until he comes again in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, 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 we 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.