

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Word and Table II ♦ Christmas Eve 2

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: Father Almighty, Holy Creator, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the giver of life, love, joy, and peace. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Master of all that was, and is, and is to come; you formed us from the elements of all eternity: speaking your Word of Grace you created us and breathed into us the breath of life, giving us your very image and calling us to a relationship with each other and with you. 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.

We praise you for this glorious night, in which we remember and celebrate the incarnation and birth of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. His coming was foretold by the Hebrew Prophets, announced by the Archangel Gabriel, and humbly accepted by Mary and Joseph, who submitted themselves to God's calling to share the Eternal Light of the Love of Christ with the world. Our Lord was conceived by faith, accepted by faith, recognized by faith, and proclaimed by faith. Elizabeth and her unborn son, who would become John the Baptist, recognized him while he was still in his mother's womb. Shepherds were drawn to the site of his birth in Bethlehem of Judea, and the heavenly host of angels sang of his Glory. We join their songs of praise this night, opening our hearts and mouths to proclaim:

He is born! Christ Jesus is born!

Our Lord, Emmanuel, is born in our hearts afresh this night, and we, like Mary and Joseph, are called to share him with a broken and hurting world. Christ is our Light, our Hope, our Joy, and our Peace, and in his abiding presence we experience acceptance, forgiveness, and transformation as we approach your throne of mercy and grace.

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."

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 of justice, mercy, and peace. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, 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.

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.