

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Word and Table II ♦ Common Time - A

Adapted from: *The United Methodist Book of Worship*



The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Life 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, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You shared with us your spiritual image, gave us the breath of your holy life, and placed us in the garden of your universe to care for and live in it. But we failed your calling, turned our backs on your presence, and sought after our own understandings. We denied your will, and instead fought to establish our dominance over our fellow human beings, even going so far as to deny the presence of your image within each other. Empower us to turn our backs upon this life of sin, most gracious God; and further grant that we will reach out to our sisters and brothers in the Body of Christ as we join together with your children, in all generations and in glory everlasting, to sing the angelic hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father, you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to share our human condition, live as one of us, and express your love to all by teaching, preaching, healing, leading, guiding, dying and rising for us. We thank you for coming to be among us, for sharing with us the heart of your transforming love and acceptance, and for giving us your amazing presence through the power of your Holy Spirit. We have not been left alone, to seek after your will in darkness; but have been blessed with the light of the scriptures, the traditions and history of the church universal, our experience of your sanctifying grace, and minds capable of reasoning faith. And so, having heard your word proclaimed, and having offered our prayers as your people, now we gather at this your table to be re-united to your Son and with each other, sharing the bread of heaven and being fed with your Holy, Mysterious Real Presence.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus our Rabbi 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.

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

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.

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

The Breaking of the Bread

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.