

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Word and Table II ♦ Common Time - C

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, creator of heaven and earth. From the dust of the earth you formed us in your own image, giving us beauty, intelligence, and a soul to represent you in this world. Sadly, in our arrogance we chose to trust the word of the serpent rather than your word of promise: we chose the tragedies of sin and death over the blessings of righteousness and life. Even though we turned our backs on you, Holy Creator, you never gave up on us: you sent us your covenant and your prophets and, in the fullness of time, you sent your very Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to gather us into your family once more. 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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ – our Lord, our master, our brother and friend. Through his birth, ministry, death and resurrection, Jesus revealed your love for us in word and in deed; in him you have brought us out of the nightmare of sin and death and into glory in your amazing grace; in him we live, and move, and have our being in the sure and certain knowledge that his righteousness is our righteousness, his grace our grace, his peace our peace. And, now, Jesus calls us to his join with him in your eternal banquet, offering us the best seats at the table even though we do not deserve to even join in the feast. But the words are sure, and certain, and worthy of full acceptance: “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

For on the night in which he gave himself up for us, 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, until Christ comes 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 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.