

# Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Word and Table III – A Free Form Liturgy

Adapted From: *The Book of Worship of The United Methodist Church*

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Almighty God, with thankful hearts we praise you for the patient love and forgiving grace which you have given us in your Son, our savior Jesus Christ.

We are truly amazed to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf. Not only did he step into human flesh, which we share, and experience the power of temptation, which we face, but he also accepted the penalty, which we are due, and was nailed to a cross, which we deserve.

Jesus died that we might never know eternal death.  
He died that we might never be separated from you.  
He died that our sins would be washed away.  
He died that we would be made whole.

And so we thank you for his sacrifice.  
We thank you for his grace.  
We thank you for his holy presence, here in our midst, and everywhere that Christians draw near to you and partake of the Sacrament of divine love.

For, on that night before Jesus died for us, when he was gathered together with his disciples, 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, blessed it, 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."***

We pray, most gracious God, for the Holy Spirit to convey the real presence of Jesus to us through our prayers, through the Holy Scriptures, and through the bread and wine set before us. As we eat and drink these elements with our faith focused only on Christ, and as we are re-membered to the Body of Christ in Glory:

We thank you for the grace, which we now receive;  
We thank you for the forgiveness of our sins, which we have in his outpoured blood;  
We thank you for the wholeness of mind, body, and spirit, which we have in his bruised flesh;  
We thank you for the promise of unity among all Christians, which we have in his love.

May we respond, by faith, to the grace we have received, and may we always be ready to profess our faith in Jesus to all whom we meet.

In Jesus Holy Name we pray. **Amen**