

# Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Word and Table II ♦ In Solidarity with the Persecuted Church

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



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 the heavens and the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When human inhumanity reared its ugly head, you sustained your people and made it possible for the oppressed to survive the trials and tribulations of a harsh life. As with the Israelites, held in bondage in Egypt, you deliver the oppressed from the captivity of physical, spiritual, and emotional slavery, and so great is your grace that even oppressors can come to recognize and repent of the evil and sin that greed and lust for power can bring. 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, who left the comforts of glory to live among a people estranged from God. By his life and example he taught us that it is possible to love our neighbors and live together as family. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

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."

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 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.**