

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving Palm Sunday



Let us open our hearts to the One who breaks bread.

We offer our doubt, our fears, our needs.

Let us give thanks to the Root of the vine.

We offer our hope, our joy, our praise.

We praise you, Source and Sustainer of life: in love you cause all things to be; from stardust and spirit you weave our humanity; when we mourn, your tears comfort us; when we weary you, your prophets pursue us; when we come home, your feast awaits us. Thank you, gracious Host, for inviting us to this table, where we find unlikely companions to confront and comfort us, receiving bread to sustain us on our journey, and share life's cup of laughter and tears.

We give thanks for the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, who feeds us and feasts with us, who heals us and suffers with us, who proclaims the nearness of your reign. Christ's death and resurrection release us from the famine of death, and teaches us how to die so that we may live.

Therefore, with all creation and all creatures, with all who hunger for your reign and hope for new creation, we share the song of praise which echoes through the universe:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space, All earth and seas and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always. (MV 203)

At his last meal with his friends, Jesus renewed your covenant promise. He took bread, thanked You, and broke the bread, giving it to his friends, saying: 'Take this and eat it. This is my body, given to you. Each time you do this, remember me.' **We remember him.**

After the meal was over, he took the cup of blessing, thanked You, and poured the wine, giving it to his friends, saying: 'Take this and drink it. This is my blood, given for you. Each time you drink this, remember me.'

We remember him.

And so we do as he asked us, loving God. We pray that your Spirit might fill these gifts and fill us - that all might be vessels of your love, your hope and your life in the world.

Come, holy Spirit, come!

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
(MV 204)***

May your Holy Spirit rest upon these gifts. May they nourish and sustain us for your work in this world. For in our joy, you are the overflowing cup and in our need you are the bread by which we journey on. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

***Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! Amen, amen,
O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen! (MV 205)***

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion elements are offered in two ways today— either separately or by pre-filled bread/juice cups. Please make your way to one of the serving stations at the front of the sanctuary, by way of the centre aisle. Take the elements—stay as long as you wish and then return to your seat by an outside aisle.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that wine poured out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another is gift and grace. Amen.