

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

In the beginning, Breath poured forth and goodness was born, bringing Light from darkness, life from chaos, birth from the Womb of Creation.

Circling around the fire, from the beginning of humanity, people gathered to tell their story and to give thanks for the gifts of the Creator: **promise of seed, hope of new life, wholeness of heart, sacredness of all that lives and breathes.**

And the creatures, in their own language, sang their gratitude:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea 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)

In the fullness of time goodness was once again born, and the world came to know our brother Jesus, born of woman, whole in heart and Spirit, dedicated to the Way of God, who invited all to the table of grace and continues to invite us now to this circle of healing and hope.

As he gathered his disciples in his time, we come now to remember and seek to become the Body of Christ in our own time.

Before he parted from his friends, Jesus prepared a last supper to share with them. He took some bread and gave thanks for it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take and eat; this is my body,' he said. When supper was all but over, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks for it, and gave it to them to drink. 'This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take and drink from it. It is for all.'

Creator, Christ, Sacred Spirit, fill this meal and this circle with the gifts of life so we may be seed and fruit for one another and all creation, for the nourishment of all.

With all of creation, we continue to sing:

***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)***

As Jesus remained true to the goodness and mercy planted within him, even till death, may we live lives that help to feed the hunger and quench the thirst of the world. May we offer ourselves as Jesus did, as gifts of healing through our words of love and our acts of justice. May we continue to welcome all who are in need and share in our awe and thanksgiving.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

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

SHARING THE FEAST

Communion elements of bread and rice crackers are shared today with tongs; juice is served in communion glasses. Please make your way to the serving station closest to you.

Jesus Christ: bread of heaven.

Jesus Christ: the cup of blessing.

INTERLUDE Meditation from Thaïs (*J. Massenet*)

Wesley Bells, violin

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May we become what we have been given: bread and wine for a hungry world; a blessing to those whose hearts are empty; a light in the darkness. Amen.

I Have Called You By Your Name (MV 161)

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen;
you are mine.
2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.
3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,
then let it go.
4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people
they are mine.

(D.C. Damon)

We Praise You, O God (VU 218)

- 1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

(Julia Cory)