

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer (Prayer before Communion)

Adapted from Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole, Glebe-St. James U.C., Ottawa

Invitation to the Table

Welcome friends and relations!

We meet here in the house of the Creator at the great feasting table.

The Holy One who walked with our ancestors, walks with us now, and will walk with our children for years to come.

In the very air that we breathe, in the sound of whistling wind and in the slap of the waves on the shore,
we give you thanks for your presence.

In the sound of children's laughter, and in the songs of our elders,
we give you thanks for your presence.

Lift up your broken hearts:

We lift them up to God.

Let us honour our Creator.

It is right to honour God.

It is right to honour God and to give our thanks.

We give our thanks to God.

The Great Thanksgiving

Creator and Giver of all life, Source of love. We bless you for all your gifts.

You brought creation to birth and sent prophets to awaken us to your great dream—a dream in which everyone is treated with dignity and love, justice and mercy, honour and hospitality. We praise you for elders and prophets, visionaries and leaders, teachers and preachers, all who have shared the great truth of your love. We praise you for our brother Jesus, Love in Human Form, who showed to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion, your Great Heart of Love. With the flying ones, the swimming ones, the four-legged ones, and the crawling ones, with rocks and trees, mountains and plains, with all creation, we humans raise our voices to you as we say:

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 heaven.

Creation sings Your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes

And bears Your name always. (MV 203)

As we gather at this feasting table, we remember that on the night before he died, Jesus feasted with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Whenever you feast together, remember me." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink together, remember me." Remembering your boundless love shown to us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

**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)**

Holy Spirit, unite us at this feast and may it strengthen us to live the resurrected and reconciled life of Christ in creation.

At this time, we also remember all with whom you would have us share your feast..... ***Prayers of the People/Prayer of Jesus***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on all your people. Bless this bread and this cup, that they might refresh us and renew us as Christ's body in the world.

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

Words of Institution

Christ's body broken and healed for you.
The cup of rich blessing poured out for you.

Welcome to the Table

Come, for all things are now ready.

**Come to the table with all your kin
and share with all in need —**

the gift of healing for those of us in pain,
the gift of reconciliation for those of us estranged,
the gift of assurance for those of us in doubt,
and the gift of hope for those of us in tears.

**May we who share these gifts,
share Christ with one another and with all our kin.**

Communion is Received

Prayer After Communion – From “*And the Table Will Be Wide*” by Jan Richardson

**And the table will be wide. And the welcome will be wide.
And the arms will open wide to gather us in. And our hearts will open wide to receive. And we
will come as children who trust there is enough. And we will give up our appetite for despair.
And we will taste and know of delight. And we will become bread for a hungry world. And
we will become drink for those who thirst. And the blessed will become the blessing. And
everywhere will be the feast. Amen.**