



The Great Thanksgiving

March 2, 2025

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come freely, for this table of grace is here for all. Come confidently, for this table of love offers blessings beyond our wildest dreams. Come humbly, for this table is set by Christ, who humbled himself to both live and die in his great love for us.

PRAYER OF YEARNING

Gracious God, we tremble in the presence of your glory and power. Strengthen our courage, that we might look upon your love and stop shrinking away in fear. Embolden us to trust your grace, no matter how grave our transgressions or ashamed our hearts may be. Shine upon us with your mercy, that we may shine for all to see. Grant us confidence in both your grace and your abundant love. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

By God's mercy, we are redeemed and renewed to shine with the love of Christ. Thanks be to God.

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, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From ancient times, you brought forth light from primordial darkness, created us in your image, called us to be your people, and shone through us with your love. When we wandered in darkness and became lost in grumbling and fear, you led us as a pillar of light and beckoned us home. In the words of prophets and poets, you called us to return to your light, offering us a vision of renewal and promising us a better future. And in the fullness of

time, you sent your Son, Christ Jesus, the Light of the World, to redeem us with love and grace, invite us to walk in the light, and shine as light for the world. And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All Sing: 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 child of light, Christ Jesus. With humble gratitude, we remember the night when the darkness of impending death began closing in. Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to disciples, who had witnessed the glory of his transfiguration and who would soon witness his death, saying: "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you. This is my life, 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 of love and light, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving. As your covenant people and as reflections of your glory, in union with Christ's love for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All Sing: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. May these be for us your life and love, shining through us with the power of your Holy Spirit. Through these gifts, may all be one with you, one with each other, and one in the ministry of love and light to the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forevermore.

All Sing: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread
Giving the Bread and Cup

Because there is one loaf, we, who 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. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The Body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Freely, Freely

UMH #389

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.