

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Please join the pastor at the table for your part in the service.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Children: Why do we give thanks at this table?

People: **We give thanks for God's creation,
for making us in God's image.
We give thanks because God never gave up on us,
even though we were not faithful to God.
We give thanks because when it was time,
God sent the only Son, Jesus, to show God's love for us.**

Children: How do we praise God for all this?

Leader: With all the faithful of every time and place,
this song is sung to God's glory:
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!*

Children: What do we remember at this table?

People: **We remember God's Son, Jesus:
He healed the sick and restored sight to the blind;
He welcomed strangers and ate with outcasts.
Dying on the cross, he saved us from our sins,
Risen from the dead, he gives us new life.**

Children: How are we able to remember?

People: **We are able to remember
because of the gift of the Holy Spirit,
God's first gift to those who believe,
who will complete God's work in the world.**

Children: Why do we eat bread at this table?

Leader: On the night before he died,
 Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends.
 He told them to eat it and remember him.
 And ministering in Jesus' name we do likewise.

Children: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

Leader: After the meal, Jesus took the cup, and gave it to them as
 the promise that our sins are forgiven.
 And ministering in Jesus' name, we do likewise.

Children: But this is just everyday bread and grape juice.

Leader: Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice
 will become holy:
 Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and cup,
 that the bread we break and the cup we bless
 may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

**People: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
 In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 All glory and honor are yours,
 Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: Since this meal brings us together with all Christians, let us
 pray for the needs of the world, the church, and all of God's
 children. *(The pastor offers prayers asking God to help all those in need.)*
 Now, together let us pray the family prayer that Jesus
 taught us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
 forever. Amen.**