

TWO EUCHARISTIC PRAYERS

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GREAT THANKSGIVING

(especially appropriate for use on Maundy Thursday)

The Great Thanksgiving is based on ancient sources, Jewish Festival Meal Blessings (the *kiddushim* and the *Birkat ha-mazon*) upon which ancient Christian eucharistic prayers were based, the *Didache*, and the *Apostolic Tradition*. The absence of the *Sanctus* reflects an early stage of liturgical development before the *Sanctus* became part of the Alexandrian liturgy in the fourth century. This prayer is an attempt to have us pray in a manner more transparently related to the festival meal blessings from which all our later Eucharistic traditions developed.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

You are blessed, O God of all creation

You made us in your image to dwell in your infinite love.

You have brought us out of bondage into freedom,

out of death into life through the paschal mystery

of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Now we enter into the memorial of Jesus' life, passion, death,
and resurrection.

It is the memorial of our Passover,

the Body and Blood offered for us.

People **You are blessed, O God, who sanctify this feast.**

We thank you, O God,

for the holy vine of David your servant

which you have revealed to us through Jesus your Child

who took the cup, saying

“This is my blood, which is shed for you;

when you do this, you make my remembrance.”

People **Glory be yours through all the ages.**

We thank you, O God,
for the life and knowledge
which you have revealed to us through Jesus your Child
who on the night he was betrayed took bread, gave thanks,
and gave it to the disciples saying
“Take, eat; this is my body which shall be broken for you.

People **Glory be yours through all the ages.**

You are truly blessed, O God, Creator of the universe
you who nourish the whole world
with goodness, tender love, and mercy.

People **You are blessed, O God, you who nourish the universe.**

We will give you thanks, our gracious God,
for you have given us in your child Jesus
spiritual food and drink
that we may be filled with eternal life.

People **You are blessed, O God, for the Holy Spirit in the church.**

Remember, O God, your people, to deliver the church from all evil and to perfect it in
your love.

And we ask that you would send your Holy Spirit upon these offerings of your church,
that, gathering us together from the four winds, made new in Christ, you would grant to
all who receive these holy things to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit for the
forgiveness of sins, the great hope of resurrection from the dead, and new life in your
most gracious rule.

People **You are blessed, O God, Creator of all, you who are good and filled with
kindness.**

May Christ come, and may this present world make way for the new.

People **Hosanna, blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.**

Maranatha

People **Amen! Come Lord Jesus!**

GREAT THANKSGIVING
(especially appropriate for use on the Feast of the Ascension)

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to our God
Celebrant Let us offer God our thanks and praise.
People It is right and just for us to do.

It is truly right, O God of justice, that we should always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and strength, give thanks to you for all the great deeds that you have done. But especially we offer our thanks and praise for the boundless love and compassion you give to us in Jesus, your Holy Child, born for us and in us, living in us and for us, dying our death that we might live in newness of life, who ascended above all heavens in order to fill all things, and who brings us even now, a liberated people, rising in hope, to stand before you our Creator. Therefore, we join the heavenly chorus of angels and archangels, and of holy women and men of every generation who are filled with your Holy Spirit and caught up in the glorious ascension of your Christ, as we sing with them the song of our liberation into life:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy indeed are you, gracious Creator of all that is. All your works reveal your goodness and love. Your Spirit moves over the deep, ever-renewing your creation. Your holiness is revealed in the lives of your saints in every generation who have been your image in the world and enacted your passion for truth and goodness and beauty. Above all have we encountered your holiness in the life of your Child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. We praise you for the witness of Jesus' life. We thank you for the passion with which Jesus endured even our death. We bless you for your loving justice revealed in raising Jesus from the dead.

Who, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and having given thanks, gave it to the disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper, Jesus took the cup, and having given thanks, gave it to them saying, "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Recalling Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, and that glorious ascension in which you are pleased to make us participants through Christ, we offer before you ourselves, our souls and bodies, in loving service to your creation, bringing before you these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them by your Holy Spirit, to be holy gifts for your holy people, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our great high priest. Pour out that same Spirit upon us, your priestly people, that we may become the Body of Christ offered and shared for the life of the world.

Let your reign of compassionate justice begin in us today. Continue your work of reconciliation, liberation, and ascension in the world that you have made; and in the fullness of time, gather us from the fields in which you scatter us like fruitful grain, into the glorious consummation of your love, in that place where mercy and truth meet together, where righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Through Jesus Christ who goes before us and who, with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, lives in the fullness of life, pouring that fullness into our lives, now and to the ages of ages. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray:

**Blessed One, our Father and our Mother
Holy is your name.
May your love be enacted in the world.
May your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth,
and the fullness of love that will be
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**