

The Words of Great Thanksgiving for the Season of Advent

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

PEOPLE: And also with you.

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

PEOPLE: We lift them up to God.

Leader: *Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.*

PEOPLE: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Leader: It is a right, good, and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you our thanks, Creator of all that is and all that ever shall be.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your loved remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our Sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the great cloud of witnesses in heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

PEOPLE: (sung response) 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.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in

obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On that night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, 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 grace, we offer ourselves in praise and thanks-giving, as children of your covenant, in union with Christ’s love for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

PEOPLE: (sung response) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation that we may faithfully witness in your name in this Advent season and always.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

PEOPLE: (sung response) Amen.

