

The Words of Great Thanksgiving for Christmas Eve

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our Sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

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:

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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so 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.

As your Word became flesh, born of a woman, on that night long ago, so, 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 thanksgiving, as children of your covenant, in union with Christ’s love for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. 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.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast as his heavenly banquet.

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

Amen.

