

INVITATION

Christ invites all the peoples of the world to this table. From the north, south, east and the west, we are invited to share in the hope and promise of peace found in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

God forgive us.

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

God forgive us.

For our failings in community, and our lack of understanding,
We ask your mercy.

For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we do not really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

God forgive us and shower your mercy upon us.

All pray in silence

God gives the message and ministry of reconciliation to the Christian Church because in Christ we have been reconciled.

Now that we have been forgiven, we must seek and promote reconciliation, love and justice among all persons, classes, races, and nations. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and transformed.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord.

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, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You created us in your image and breathed life into each of us as you called our name individually and called us to be your people in unity. You intentionally placed us in the beautiful places in your creation with purpose and with unique diversity; weaving that diversity into a magnificent human tapestry to cover the world. When we broke the beauty of the tapestry with our sinfulness and turned away for you, your unwavering love remained constant.

Even to this day, as nations are at war with one another and the devastation of diseases that are threatening to destroy the beauty of your human tapestry, you promise to deliver us from the captivity of our fears, our own destructive behaviors, and the grief and destruction of the distress, pain, and anguish of cruel diseases. The covenant you made with us to be our sovereign God gives assurance that your love never leaves us, but call us into closer relationship with you, and calls us to embrace one another in the human tapestry into which we are all woven.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the 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 on the highest.

Holy are you and blessed is your son Jesus Christ. Your spirit anointed him to preach the good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives and recovering sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce the time has come when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
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 Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of Word and the Holy Spirit.

Lead us, empower us, give us courage to break the boundaries of fear and enter
the places where hope is diminished by life-threatening illness. Move us to give
generously and to serve unselfishly and to enter places where we must take risks
for the sake of Christ.

Give us your bold message to enter places to witness to your grace and mercy
so that lives are transformed from acts of evil and hatred to movements of love,
compassion and mercy.

As an expression of his deep love for all people, Jesus took bread, gave thanks
and said "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of
me."

In the same manner he took the cup, gave thanks, and said
"Drink with me all of you, for this is my blood poured out as a witness
to the Divine Covenant of forgiveness for you and for the whole world.
Do this in remembrance of me."

And so in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mys-
tery 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. Use the gifts of our lives, our culture, our faithfulness, and our dreams to
become one in Christ, one with each other, and one in communion with you and
with all the world.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

Now as those called and empowered by the spirit of God, may we all join in the
Lord's prayer.

***Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom
come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that tres-
pass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

