

OUR THANKSGIVING MEAL

Invitation

Welcome friends. God's Banquet is coming where all are equal, and all will sit together in peace. Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table and all who seek are welcome to eat and drink from it – a table open to everyone.

Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

In the sound of joy in children's laughter, in the stories of hope from our ancestors, and in the love of those who nurture us,

we give you thanks for your presence.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In this season of unexpected angels,
in this season of guarding shepherds,
on this night of tired, awestruck, wondering, parents, and in
this time of Abundant Life,

we give you thanks, God of all Creation!

And so, with all Creation, with the earth, the sea, the sky, and all the creatures that live within it, we join your angels, and sing our joy:

O Holy, Holy, Holy God;

**O God of earth and heaven.
Creation sings, all heaven rings,
Hosanna in the highest –
Blessed is the One who comes
In the name of our God
Hosanna in the highest!**

And you give us this great gift: Child of Life, Prince of Peace,
Emmanuel – God-with-us! In the birth of a tiny baby,
born on the edge, comforted by livestock in a shack,
visited by the poor, guarded by parent's love,
you give us your Self!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

On the night before his life would be ended because
overwhelming love can sometimes cause fear to react in violent
ways, Jesus sat with his friends, celebrating, like we sit with our
friends, celebrating. Together, they remembered the story of
the people Israel, brought out of slavery by your love.

During the meal, Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it, giving
thanks to you, God, for your gift of life.

He broke that bread and passed it to his disciples, and said,

**“Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by
the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.”**

When the meal was almost over, Jesus took a cup of wine,
and blessed it, giving thanks to you, God, for your gift of love.

He lifted that cup, passing it to his disciples, and said,

“This cup is the sign of the New Covenant.

Whenever you drink it remember me.”

So we eat, we drink and we remember a tiny baby born in a shack. God-with-us. We remember.

Hymn: “All Who Hunger” VU #460 vs.1&3

Prayer of Self-Giving

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ’s dying and rising, and praying:
Come Jesus, come!

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

The Spirit Transforms

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life

The Cup we Share is the Cup of Promise

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come, the banquet awaits.

Prayer after Communion:

**God of joyful expectations, God of Christmas promise,
God of child-like hope, we have dined from your table.
May it fill us with hope in a troubled world. Grant that
this taste of your banquet which is to come would give
us the hunger for peace and justice in our community
and around the world.**

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

And let the disciples say...

Amen.

Let the disciples sing...

Amen!

Let the disciples shout...

AMEN!