

OUR THANKSGIVING MEAL

Invitation

Welcome friends to God's Banquet 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

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,

you are beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all;

Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,

you are creative and self-giving, generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the everything.

Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights

when the powers of death have done their worst,
your love has never deserted us.

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;

your presence never fails us,

your gifts of hope and new life transform us.
We praise you for Jesus Christ,
risen to life, eternal as your love.
With the women at the tomb, we raise the strain of
gladness.

Hallelujah!

Life is stronger than death!
After 40 days of Lent, after 6 Little Easters,
this day has come, scattering fear and gloom.

Hallelujah!

And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and
place,
and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of
your name.

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ,
who joins with us as a community of imperfect but hopeful
believers:

**loving what he loved
living what he taught, and
striving to be his faithful servants
in our time and place.**

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,
and the price he paid for who he was,
what he said, and what he did.

Only but a day before Jesus' awful Good Friday,
he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said,

**"Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember
me."**

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying,

"This is the new covenant, remember me."

We do remember.

We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching,
his dying, and his rising to life again.

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,
we call on you to transform these familiar things,
as you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,
the wheat and the grape,
the farmer and the harvest,
the seed and the sower.

So that in the sharing of these simple elements in
community,

we may taste and see your goodness.

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

Hymn: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” VU #468

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

Christ is able to make us one,

at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. **R**

Jesus calls us in, sends us out,
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! **R**

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

The body of Christ,
the bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.

The gifts of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion will be through Intinction – coming forward. As you receive each element, respond with ‘Amen’. All are welcome to God’s table to participate in the Eucharist.

Prayer after Communion

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.
We are fed by your love;
we are strengthened by your life.
We are sent forth into this world to live your way
and share your joy.
We are now commissioned to:
feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,**

**love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**