

GREAT THANKSGIVING (especially appropriate for use on Maundy Thursday)

The Great Thanksgiving is based on ancient sources, Jewish Festival Meal Blessings (the *kiddushim* and the *Birkat ha-mazon*) upon which ancient Christian eucharistic prayers were based, the *Didache*, and the *Apostolic Tradition*. The absence of the *Sanctus* reflects an early stage of liturgical development before the *Sanctus* became part of the Alexandrian liturgy in the fourth century. This prayer is an attempt to have us pray in a manner more transparently related to the festival meal blessings from which all our later Eucharistic traditions developed.

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Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

You are blessed, O God of all creation
You made us in your image to dwell in your infinite love.
You have brought us out of bondage into freedom,
out of death into life through the paschal mystery
of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Now we enter into the memorial of Jesus' life, passion, death,
and resurrection.

It is the memorial of our Passover,
the Body and Blood offered for us.

People **You are blessed, O God, who sanctify this feast.**

We thank you, O God,
for the holy vine of David your servant
which you have revealed to us through Jesus your Child
who took the cup, saying
"This is my blood, which is shed for you;
when you do this, you make my remembrance."

People **Glory be yours through all the ages.**

We thank you, O God,
for the life and knowledge
which you have revealed to us through Jesus your Child

who on the night he was betrayed took bread, gave thanks,
and gave it to the disciples saying
“Take, eat; this is my body which shall be broken for you.

People **Glory be yours through all the ages.**

You are truly blessed, O God, Creator of the universe
you who nourish the whole world
with goodness, tender love, and mercy.

People **You are blessed, O God, you who nourish the universe.**

We will give you thanks, our gracious God,
for you have given us in your child Jesus
spiritual food and drink
that we may be filled with eternal life.

People **You are blessed, O God, for the Holy Spirit in the church.**

Remember, O God, your people, to deliver the church from all evil and to perfect it in
your love.

And we ask that you would send your Holy Spirit upon these offerings of your church,
that, gathering us together from the four winds, made new in Christ, you would grant to
all who receive these holy things to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit for the
forgiveness of sins, the great hope of resurrection from the dead, and new life in your
most gracious rule.

People **You are blessed, O God, Creator of all, you who are good and filled with
kindness.**

May Christ come, and may this present world make way for the new.

People **Hosanna, blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.**

Maranatha

People **Amen! Come Lord Jesus!**