

"THE GREAT THANKSGIVING" Written by the Rev. Michael Johnson and adapted *gently* for the Great Event.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

It is pure delight to be in your presence.

It is amazing to think of joining with Christians

all over the world

to celebrate the new life we all enjoy in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You have made us one family.

You have united Christians from the United States

with Christians from Costa Rica, Korea, Africa,

Palestinian Christians and Chinese Christians,

Zimbabwean Christians and Jamaican Christians

all into one family.

You have given us brothers and sisters

who live on every continent;

who speak every language imaginable

and then some.

You have given us brothers and sisters

who think like us

and get along with us,

and even some who get on our nerves

every single day.

And you love us all as your family

and expect us to love one another as family.

And so,
as your family on earth,
together with the members of your family in heaven,
we join together and give to you our unending song of praise:

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.

No one is holy but you, O Lord.
And no one is as faithful as your Son Jesus Christ
who taught us the transforming experience that is ours
when we *see, know, and love*.

On that last night, Jesus surrounded himself
with those whom he knew would betray, deny,
and desert him;

yet, he washed their feet
and enjoyed an evening of feasting with them.

Taking bread, he gave thanks to you.
broke the bread,
and gave a portion to everyone present saying:

“This is my body broken for you.
Whenever you eat this bread,
remember me.”

At the end of the meal,
taking the cup,
Jesus gave thanks to you, and said:

“This is my blood shed to ratify God’s covenant of grace
with you and with many for the forgiveness of sin.
Whenever you drink of this, remember me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts
in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Holy Spirit, make holy these gifts of bread and cup;
and each person here,
all who are seeking to live a life
that can only be found in relationship with Christ.

Pour out your Spirit on those worshiping
here, in the churches throughout the *Northeastern Jurisdiction*,
across the nation, and around the globe.

May your Spirit inspire and empower your *whole* church –
apostolic and universal.

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 at your 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.