

GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER IN JOHANNINE IMAGERY

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Great Thanksgiving Prayer in Johannine Imagery

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Presider It is truly right always and everywhere to praise you,
Lord God our Father, Lover of all.
Your wind swept the waters when our world began,
and you spoke the Word that was always your Word.
Through him all things came to be,
and his life lightened every life
with the light darkness could not swallow.

And when sin's deadly shadow fell everywhere,
your Word came in flesh to live with us.
The world he made did not know him;
his homeland refused him.

But he fulfilled your purpose, and loved us to the end.
On the cross he handed over the Spirit of life,
flowing forever like water from a living spring.

Now all who receive him have power to become children of God:
born from above, they blow through the world with your Spirit,
bearing witness for the truth of your Word.
All who believe in him have left death for new life.

All who hear his voice follow him,
as sheep follow their own shepherd,
on the true and living way that leads to the Father.
All who love, as he loved, live like branches of a vine,
drawing life from the one who laid down his life for his friends.

For on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples and said:

“Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

“Drink of this, all of you:
This is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, of all the things that are yours,
we offer you these, which are yours especially.
We offer them gladly, as he told us,
giving thanks for his death and resurrection.
And having seen the glory of the Son himself,
coming from the Father, full of unending love,
we praise you and we bless you.

*People: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

Presider Now, as he promised, send us your loving Spirit,
to make this bread and this cup
the life-giving body and blood of your Son,
and to make us perfectly one, as you and he are one.
For now the darkness of this world is overthrown;
and together with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven,
we sing the triumphal song—

[Sanctus and Benedictus]