

GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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Presider Holy God, Mother and Father of all life,
from the beginning of time your Spirit breathed light over darkness.
You scattered stars in the heavens and raised up the mountains
You poured out great rivers and blessed the earth with life.
You made men and women in your image, and loved us in our
weakness, promising to stay with us wherever we go.

In the winter of our longing, you came to the prophet Mary
offering your Spirit to make creation whole.
You gave her a child, Jesus, your beloved son
to turn the broken world upside down.

Jesus stayed with us, healing the sick and feeding the hungry
unbinding prisoners and raising the dead.
He ate with strangers, showed mercy to sinners,
and taught us to follow him in love without fear.

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 friends 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 all
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,
remembering his death and resurrection,
his birth in Bethlehem,
and rest in the manger,
his welcome to shepherds and strangers as
we praise and bless you:

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

Presider Now pour out your spirit on this bread and wine
to make them the body and blood of Christ
for your waiting people.
Come among us and abide with us that we may be the
body of Christ for the world you love.

Shine upon us tonight as you shone upon the faithful Mary
as you shine upon your people in the darkest times and places
that lit by your love we may raise our voices
with saints and angels in the heavenly song:

All *Holy, holy, holy...*