

THE ANAPHORA OF MARY MAGDELENE

M. R. Ritley © 1995

Presider

It is right to give you thanks, Creator of all,
for your voice alone brought light and life to birth when all began.
You called each one of us to be,
and named us with the name that you alone could speak.

You called us to be lovers of creation,
and to care for each other as you had cared for us.
But we betrayed your trust —
and we in turn became the victims of betrayal.
The bond of trust became the bondage of division:
male and female, Jew and Gentile,
slave and free, oppressor and oppressed.
Our hearts became the haunt of demons;
sin and sickness held us captive;
and our own kin cast us out.

Yet you in your love did not desert us,
but instead sent your Beloved to seek us out,
to gather in the lost and outcaste.
He did not turn away from us,
but called us to your table and made us sharers in your life.
He threw open the doors of freedom,
casting out the darkness of our hearts
and greeting us as God's beloved friends and children.
In place of judgment, he gave us compassion;
in place of condemnation, healing.

And even as he came to share our suffering,
he called us to be witnesses to his;
to follow in the way that led him to the cross;
and to see with our own eyes the depths of your forgiveness.

And when the night was darkest, and our loss complete,
he broke upon us like the coming of the dawn,
and shattered death itself within the empty tomb.
He called us once again by name,
and chose us to be bearers of his Word.

For on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
our Friend and Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it and gave it to us 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 us 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, Loving God,
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 Risen One,
we praise you and we bless you:

People *We praise you, we bless you...*

Now, as he promised,
send us your loving Spirit,
to make this bread and this cup
the life-giving body and blood of your Christ,
and to make us one with him in your covenant of love.

Give us courage not to cling to what is past,
but to proclaim the freedom of new life,
as together with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven,
we sing the triumphal song:

All *Holy, holy, holy...*