

GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER IN MIDDLE PLATONIST IMAGERY

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Presider It is truly right always and everywhere to praise you,
Lord God our Father, Giver of light.

For you made man and woman and all things in a world of glory,
and taught us to live together in love forever.
And though we turned from your light
and made war on one another,
wasting the gifts of your creation,
until we could find no way out of the darkness, but began to die,
and all things cried to you for release
— even then you did not destroy or forsake us.

You called Abraham and Sarah on a journey of promise,
and brought Israel out of captivity;
you made Moses your friend, and taught him to grow in the truth.
And in due time the new star of glory appeared,
scattering the shadows of death
and leading us on the road to peace.

Our eyes at first were dim: we could not make him out.
We wondered as he taught us the way of your kingdom;
we fled in fear when he died for us,
showing the fullness of love.
But you raised him again,
and in his new dawn the truth shone plainly for all to see.
Now we have cast down our fears;
we have turned our faces full to the light.
And running together from all parts of the earth,
we join in love once more,
to follow his example and share his glorious life
in the breaking of bread.

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 moving ever more toward the daylight,
where we can see Christ is all in all,
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 send us your Holy Spirit,
to show that this bread and cup
are the life-giving body and blood of your Son,
and reveal your image in us,
transforming our life to be like his.

from January to September:

Let us see your glory in all things,
and desire you more and more
—until lifting our voices in unbroken praise,
we join with angels and archangels
and all the company of Heaven,
singing forever the triumphal song:

from October to December, and at Peace services:

And bring us at last his kingdom of peace.
Already we gather to welcome him;
and lifting our voices with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we join in the Triumphal song: :

All *Holy, holy, holy...*