

# **GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER IN PAULINE IMAGERY**

**Richard Fabian © 1993, 1995**

*Presider* It is truly right always and everywhere to praise you,  
Lord God our Father, giver of life.  
For you created us and set us in a garden of delights,  
and commanded us to be fruitful and multiply.

But thankless, we grasped for your power,  
and divided ourselves against ourselves,  
until we could not do what we would,  
but became slaves to sin, earning death for our wages.  
And even then you did not destroy or forsake us.

You gave Abraham and Sarah a new promise of fruitfulness,  
and taught Moses the laws of paradise anew,  
and sent prophets calling the nations to your banquet of peace.

And though we were sinners  
your beloved Son came to befriend us, and feast with us,  
and offer his life for our life.  
Laying aside his equality with you, he put his faith in you,  
and accepted even death on a cross,  
breaking down the walls that divided us.

So you raised him from the grave,  
a new Adam for a new creation.  
You baptized the nations in his death as in the Red Sea,  
and freed the slaves of sin,  
and taught us love one another as one body.

In his Spirit we thank you for all you have given us,  
and pray as you would have us pray,  
and live as you would have us live.  
In his Spirit we taste the riches  
you have planned for your whole creation.  
And in his Spirit we run to spread the good news,  
sharing his sufferings so that we may share his winnings  
with all he came to serve.

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 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,  
giving thanks for his death and resurrection.  
And knowing that every division is ended,  
and we are one body, and Christ is all in all,  
we praise you and we bless you.

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

Presider        Father, send your Holy Spirit  
to make this bread and this cup  
the life-giving body and blood of your Son,  
a foretaste of that feast where we will see you face to face,  
and know you as we are known.

Already we grow brighter and brighter  
as we are turned into the glory we reflect.  
Therefore forgetting what lies behind us,  
and pressing forward toward the prize,  
we lift our voices with angels and archangels  
and all the company of Heaven,  
praising you in the Triumphal song:

***[Sanctus and Benedictus]***