

## **Invitation to the Table**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us,  
you made the world we inhabit, and before the world,  
you made the eternal home in which, through Christ,  
we have a place.

We praise you, O God, whom eternity cannot contain,  
for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.  
We praise you for his life which informs our living,  
for his compassion which changes our hearts,  
for his clear speaking which contradicts our "harmless generalities,"  
for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his  
fearless dying, his rising to life, breathing forgiveness,  
and restoring us forever to you.

For these gifts we praise and worship you. All that is  
spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you. All  
that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as their fulfillment.

Therefore, we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

In the Gospels, we read how Jesus was always the guest.  
At the tables of the wealthy, pleading the case of the poor, he was always the guest.  
Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people,  
welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

Here, at this table, Jesus himself is our host.  
Those who wish to serve him, must first be served by him.  
Those who want to follow him, must first be fed by him.  
For this is the table where God intends us  
to be nourished. This is the time when Christ  
can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ,  
who has sat at our tables, is inviting us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed into the hands of those who would try to destroy him, our Lord  
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks.

Blessed art thou O Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who causes bread to rise from the ground.

Jesus then broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

So now we do as Jesus did. We set aside this bread and this cup, knowing as often as we do so we proclaim the death of our risen Lord until he comes again.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

### **Prayers**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and cup  
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ  
and that we may be his body for the world.

By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another  
until we feast with him and all your saints  
in your eternal realm of justice and peace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.

Boldly yet with humility we raise to you the concerns of our hearts . . . .

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

### **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **The Response**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless God's holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul; And forget not all God's benefits.**