

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving based on Psalm 8

By Lisl Heymans Paul

+The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O Holy God,

How splendid is your imagination,

how vast your creativity.

Your word and breath whispered life into being
and from it emerged teeming oceans,
verdant forests, and every climbing, crawling, creeping creature.

Your word and breath whispered humanity into being,
called to live in your image and walk in your grace.

You called and walked with our migrant ancestors,
whose lives were filled with constant journeys,
across deserts, over rivers and mountains and
even through the wilderness of their own hearts.

You call and walk with us today.

You travel with us,

even though we deny you and our own humanity.

You send prophets to warn us,
preachers to turn us,
pastors to lead us on a different path,
but we turn away.

And yet, you do not,
choosing instead to continue calling and walking with us,
word and breath delivering us
from our blindness and freeing us for new life.
How splendid is your love, how vast is your grace.
And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

How splendid is your love,
how vast is your grace,

Seeing our betrayal and loving us anyway
your word and breath became flesh,
Christ Jesus the One who walked with strangers and outcasts,
who journeyed with the forgotten and forlorn,
who challenged oppressors and freed the oppressed,
who wandered with the closed hearted until their hearts opened
and who taught, healed, ate with, and
loved those who needed him most,
until those in power cut his life short.

And yet, your word, your breath raised him, defeating death.

And through his resurrection,
by the power of the Spirit,
you called us to begin a new journey with him as the church,
to live once more in your image and by your grace.

How splendid is your call, how faithful is your companionship.

We remember the mystery of your word and breath made flesh.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it,
for the remembrance of me.”
And so, in remembrance of these
your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a living
and holy sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has Died

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.

Amen Amen

+The Lord’s Prayer

+Breaking of the Bread

In the breaking of this bread, we remember all those who are broken, and our eyes are
opened to the suffering around us.

In the taking of this cup, we lay claim to your healing, and offer ourselves in love and grace
to those who suffer.

+Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery

In which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world

In the strength of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.