

The Great Thanksgiving

O God, our father and mother, the Lord of Heaven and earth, we thank you for your creation. We thank you for seasonal rain, for the gift of the soil that gives its goodness and for the seed which dies and multiplies.

We are grateful too for all human labour in the fields. Many who labour to produce food go hungry without food. This bread reminds us of the loving and unfailing labour of our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters.

Above all we thank you for the inestimable gift of your son Jesus Christ. He became the Human One and thus unites in Himself all those who toil, suffer and are persecuted. As the Bread from Heaven, we thank you. He gives of Himself in and through the sacrifice of love.

We also remember, O Lord, that this bread has been made from seed that was once scattered. We too are scattered and alienated from each other. We have allowed our ethnicity, language and culture to divide and scatter us. We thank you that you bring order out of chaos and create light from darkness. We thank you also that in and through the great sacrifice of our Lord you have united us as one body, one bread. So help us Lord that we may give ourselves up for the unity of humankind. We break this bread and share in it in remembrance of Him who is our Peace.

On the very night that He was betrayed to suffer death upon the cross for us, the Lord Jesus took bread and, after giving thanks to the Divine, broke it and gave it to the disciples to share saying: Take, eat, this is my Body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.

We offer our grateful thanks over this cup too. We thank you for the gift of fruit, the symbol of joy, as well as your life given for the redemption of humankind. We remember with gratitude that the source of this fruit is also your gift from nature and human labour. It is crushed and through being crushed becomes the source of joyful fellowship. We remember that our Lord Jesus as the Good Shepherd laid down His life for His friends. As we share in this cup of the covenant, we too, abiding in Him, may become willing to be crushed and poured out. We share in this cup remembering the one great sacrifice upon the cross reconciling the world to You and bringing reconciliation within the human communities of the world.

In the same manner after supper, He took the cup of the fruit and, after giving thanks, He gave it to them saying: Drink, all of you, from this, for this is my life of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

We proclaim His death, we live by His resurrection, we look for His coming again.

Lord's Prayer

Blessed are those who are called to the table.

Silence and Blessing.

*Liturgy from an unknown Sri Lankan source, adapted for use in the TCL Chapel
by the Rev'd Adrian Aaron, a TCL Faculty Member*