

A Great Thanksgiving for World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2014  
Adapted to include reference to Ebola and Malaria – by Rev. Fran Elrod

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You created us in your image and breathed life into each of us as you called our name individually and called us to be your people in unity. You intentionally placed us in the beautiful places in your creation with purpose and with unique diversity – weaving that diversity into a magnificent human tapestry to cover your world. When we broke the beauty of the tapestry with our sinfulness and turned away from you, your unwavering love remained constant.

Even to this day, as nations are at war with one another and the devastation of Ebola and Malaria are threatening to destroy the beauty of your human tapestry, you promise to deliver us from the captivity of our fears, our own destructive behaviors, and the grief and destruction of the distress, pain, and anguish of cruel disease. The covenant you made with us to be our sovereign God gives assurance that your love never leaves us, but calls us into a closer relationship with you, and calls us to embrace one another in the human tapestry into which we are all woven.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

Lead us, empower us, give us courage to break the boundaries of fear and enter the places where hope is diminished by life-threatening illness. Move us to give generously and to serve unselfishly and to enter places where we must take risks for the sake of Christ. Give us your

bold message to enter places to witness to your grace and mercy so that lives are transformed from acts of evil and hatred to movements of love and mercy.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Our Lord 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."

Likewise, 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, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

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  
your Holy Spirit in your Holy  
Church, all honor and glory is yours,  
Almighty Father, now and forever.