

Great Thanksgiving (Second Order APBA form) Wisdom in Creation theme

This text is suitable for use with Holy Communion Second Order in APBA. It draws on themes of God's wisdom in creation, and names the importance of being good stewards of that creation. Bible references include Genesis 1, Proverbs 3, Proverbs 8, Wisdom 9, Luke 7.

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 our thanks and praise.

O God, eternal Wisdom,
all you have made is beautiful and good.
We thank you for darkness and light,
for this earth and for our bodies,
for growth and change
and all that lies beyond our knowledge and imagination.

In every generation you befriend your people.
You gave us your holy Law, sent the prophets,
and called us back to the truth whenever we turned away.

You were vindicated in your servant Jesus
who came with forgiveness, feasting, and stories of your grace.
Though we rejected him,
death on a cross could not quench the fire of his love.
You gave him back to us, the Risen One,
to build a new community of hope
where all are honoured as Christ's equal friends.

And so we praise you
with Mary, mother of the living Word,
and with all your faithful friends,
as we join the angels' song:

**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.

God of the feast, your household is hungry
for the bread of heaven and the cup of life.
Send your Spirit on us and on our celebration,
so that we may eat at this table and be satisfied
with the sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

On the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with the people he loved.
He took the bread, gave you thanks,
broke it to share with them, and said:
“Take and eat this: it is my body.”

Then he took a cup of wine.
Again he thanked you and told them:
“Drink this, all of you: it is my blood,
shed for you and for many
so that sins may be forgiven.
Whenever you do this, do it in memory of me.”

So we delight to remember Jesus:
the faithfulness of his life,
the victory of his cross,
the glory of his resurrection,
the joy of the Holy Spirit poured out for the Church.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O holy Wisdom, merciful and generous,
accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
Make us good stewards of creation,
with justice in our hearts, courage in our actions
and power in our speech
to bear witness to the truth.
Protect us with your glory,
unite your church in loyalty and love,
and bring us home with all your saints to feast with you for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
and in the Spirit's grace,
with heart and soul and mind and strength
we love and worship you alone, O God,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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