

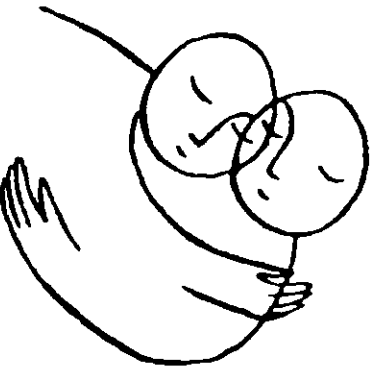
Closing Prayer

We give You thanks, O God,
for great moments of joy and strength
that come to us when by strong and
special movements of grace
we are able to perform some act of pure
and disinterested love.

For the clean fire of that love
which floods the soul and cleanses
the whole person and leaves us filled with an
unexpected lightness and freedom for action.

For the moment of pure prayer
which not only establishes order in the soul,
but even fortifies us against physical weariness
and brings us to a new lease on life itself.
God be to You for Your precious gift.

—Thomas Merton



Spirit of Gratitude

Opening Prayer/Liturgy

October 2005



Opening Song

Table Of Plenty

Daniel L. Schutte, © 1992, OCP Publications

Chorus:

Come to the feast of heaven and earth!

Come to the table of plenty!

*God will provide for all that we need,
here at the table of plenty!*

O come and sit at my table
where saints and sinners are friends.
I wait to welcome the lost

and the lonely to share the cup of my love.

Chorus (Repeat)

My bread will ever sustain you
through days of sorrow and woe.

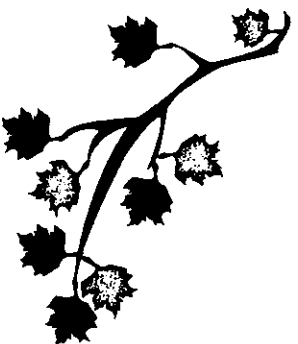
My wine will flow like a sea of gladness
to flood the depths of your soul.

Chorus (Repeat)

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
It is good to be here.
May our gratitude for this moment
Extend back through time
Tracing the ways
You have taught us wisdom
Into the future with hope
for promises to be fulfilled
Around the world
To embrace Your people
Trying to build a civilization of love
Up into the heavens
To wonder at the majesty
Of Your creation.
May our time together
Remind us of our gratitude
For Your gifts.
All: Amen.

Reflection



Gratitude consists in a watchful attention to the particulars of our state, and to the multitude of God's gifts, taken one by one. It fills us with a consciousness that God loves and cares for us, even to the least event and smallest need of life. It is a blessed thought: from our childhood, God has been laying His fatherly hands upon us, and always in benediction, and that even the strokes of His hands are blessings, and among the chiefest we have ever received.

-H. E. Manning

Silent Reflection of Thankfulness

Let us now take a moment to reflect on the people and things for which we are thankful.

Litany of Thanks

Leader: To wake from sleep
into this day

All: *Is gift enough for thanks.*

Leader: To hear a child's delights in laughter—
All: *Is gift enough for thanks.*

Leader: To sip a glass of clean, cold water -
All: *Is gift enough for thanks.*

Leader: To watch the sunset paint the sky—
All: *Is gift enough for thanks.*

Leader: To share a moment with a friend—
All: *Is gift enough for thanks.*

Leader: To smell the fragrance of moist soil—
All: *Is gift enough for thanks.*

Leader: To feel the comfort of clean clothing—
All: *Is gift enough for thanks.*

Leader: To form words that make a prayer—
All: *Is gift enough for thanks.*

-K. K. Wehlander