

GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER OF CAIN OUR FATHER

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Great Thanksgiving Prayer of Cain Our Father

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Presider It is truly fitting and right to praise you
at all times and in all places,
O God, Savior of the world.

For you made all humankind in your own image,
to rule your creation in peace,
and commanded us to live together in love forever.

And though Cain our father rose in anger and killed his brother,
yet you had mercy on him.
You gave him a covenant,
and marked him with a protecting sign;
you placed the gravest sinners beyond human judgment.

With the same steadfast love
you led your people Israel out of slavery;
and when they deserted you and worshipped false gods
—still you did not forsake them.
You gave them your law to guide them,
and led them through the desert to a new land of promise.

Again, when the people of Nineveh were sunk in wickedness,
and the earth could no longer bear their wrongs
—even then you did not destroy them.
You sent Jonah your prophet to warn them of judgment;
and the whole people repented, and changed their ways,
and were spared.

So in every place where we made war,
you have led us towards peace;
where we fell into sin, you forgave us;
where we wandered, you called us back with promises of love.

And in due time you sent your Son himself,
to seek out the lost and bring them the good news
of your boundless mercy.
He did not keep himself to the company of the righteous;
he chose sinners for his friends;
and laying before them your gift of forgiveness,
he died for them, showing the fullness of love.

Then you raised him from the dead,
and poured out his spirit on humankind,
sharing his victory even with those who rejected him.
Now we sinners, too, rejoice to give thanks
for the death and risen life of your Son;
and in the power of his spirit
we have turned from our errors to follow his example,
and share his saving life in the breaking of bread.

For on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said—

“Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said—

“Drink of this, all of you:
This is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father,
of all the things that are yours we offer you these,
which are yours especially.
We offer them gladly, as he told us,
giving thanks for his death and resurrection.
And seeing that the power of sin is broken,
and Christ is all in all,
we praise you and we bless you.

ALL: *We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

Presider Now send your sanctifying spirit,
to show us that this bread and this cup
are the body and blood of your Son,
and every sin is pardoned, and every debt is redeemed,
and you have made us your holy people.

And bring us at last his kingdom of peace.
Already we gather to welcome him;
and lifting our voices with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we join in the Triumphal song:

[Sanctus and Benedictus]