

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

2011 General Assembly Opening Worship, July 9, 2011; Nashville Convention Center;  
Nashville, TN

**ONE:** Let us pray.

**O God, We give you thanks for the sacrificial offerings of our brothers and sisters in Christ who dedicate their lives You without great regard for the cost. We thank you for the abundance that enables each of us to open our hands in sharing. Blessed by your Spirit may these gifts ease the burden of many, offer strength and encouragement, and be a witness to your healing power – your Good News – in a fragmented world. Amen.**

**ONE:** The Lord be with you

**PEOPLE:** And also with you

**ONE:** Lift up your hearts.

**PEOPLE:** We lift them to the Lord.

**ONE:** Let us give thanks to our God.

**PEOPLE:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**ONE:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God, Creator of heaven and earth. We praise you, joining our voices with every rock and tree, every ocean and prairie, every living, breathing, singing thing... we join our voices with all the company of heaven, as we sing, for all who will hear, of your everlasting faithfulness to all generations.

*Congregation w/organ:*

*Holy Holy. Holy Holy.*

*Holy Holy Lord God Almighty ...*

*And we lift our hearts before you,*

*as a token of our love.*

*Holy Holy. Holy Holy*

*- HOLY, HOLY- 1972, Lexicon Music, Inc. ASCAP*

**ONE:** We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love, which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For you sent Jesus to Redeem the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*(Raise the loaf)* On the night as they celebrated God's deliverance, Jesus gathered with his Disciples. He took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, *(break it)* and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." *(Place bread back on table)*

**After supper he took the cup (*lift the cup*) and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink 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 in remembrance of me." (*Place the cup back on the table*)**

**Once, you were there, now we are here, where we remember! Here, where we remember that:**

**ALL:**

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

**ONE: Here we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this cup.**

**We pray, gracious God, for you to send your Holy Spirit among us, that your presence might be made known among and within us as we gather. May we discern Christ's body as we partake.**

**And may we discern Christ's body in the beloved faces we greet again after a long absence. Make your presence known here and now in this gathering.**

**Even as we recognize you in the cup and loaf, in the community gathered, may we recognize you in the world that you have given us to love and serve. May we see you in the least of these, our brothers and sisters, not only here, but also from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.**

**In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, both now and forever more. *AMEN.***

**And now, we are bold to sing the prayer Christ taught his disciples.**

**LORD's PRAYER SUNG (p. 310 in Chalice Hymnal)**

*Our father in heaven hallowed be thy name... For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**ONE: The gifts of God for the People of God**

**PEOPLE: Thanks Be to God**