L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving - Easter**

**Invitation**

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

They will come from east and west and from north and south,

and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

When the risen Christ was at the table with the disciples who were walking to Emmaus,

he took bread and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord’s table. Christ invites us to come and share the banquet that he has prepared for us.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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 God our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy and eager duty to give you thanks and praise, our God, creator, redeemer and ruler of the universe and all that is in it.

At your word, all things were made;

you formed us from the dust of the earth

and breathed the breath of life into us

so that we might love and serve you and one another.

When we turned from you, you did not turn from us.

When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us and your love remained constant. When we were enslaved, you freed us.

When we were lost, you found and guided us.

When we were hungry, you fed us.

When our lives were marked by disorder and chaos, you spoke words of love and justice through the Law and the prophets.

Therefore, with prophets, apostles, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name, we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks that in your time you sent Jesus, the Word made flesh, to live among us as your Son and our teacher, friend, and saviour. By his example, he encourages us to live intentional lives marked by justice, joy, grace and peace and to work together and seek the establishment of your kingdom in your world.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take your creation: this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his living, dying, and rising, as we await the day of his return. With thanksgiving, we offer to live our lives sacrificially, dedicated to serving you and all of your creation.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of creation - bread and wine - that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church around the world.

Keep us faithful in all we say and do. Fill our hearts with your truth and our bodies with strength, so that we may serve you and testify to the good news that you have given the gift of eternal life.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**