Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One is here!
God's Spirit is with us!
Let us open our hearts.
With thanksgiving let us celebrate Christ in our midst.

Blessed are you, God of all creation,
Giver of Life, Source of Love.
You breathe us into life and set us among all your creatures in a worldwide covenant of love and service.
Even when we turn away from you, **even when we hoard your gifts,** even when we are blind to another's need,
you do not forsake us.
Endlessly, **relentlessly,** you call us back to you
that we and the whole creation may live.
Who is like you, Mercy beyond Mercy?

We give thanks for your love, vulnerable and extravagant, revealed to us in Jesus,
who walks with us in trouble and beauty,
sharing our joy and our sorrow,
healing the sick, feeding the hungry,
restoring life where death has had its way.

So it is that we join the song of all creation
as we sing of your goodness …
Holy, holy, holy, God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always.
-MV 203 words: William Kervin, Paul Stott

Mighty and tender God, we recall on the night of his betrayal into enemy hands, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
As he lifted the bread to bless it, it was as though his whole life was gathered up in that loaf. He thanked you.
"My body," we hear him say, breaking the bread
to share with each and all.
"Eat this, in the awareness that I am with you."

Then he lifted the cup … as though it was brimming with his whole life. "My life is poured out that the power of forgiveness may be released among you," he said. "I am the vine, you are the branches. Apart from me you can do nothing. Drink this all of you. Abide in my love."

Great Healer and Hope of All the World, hear the prayers of our hearts for ourselves, and all who are part of this great communion of life. **Hear the prayers of our hearts …**
Pour out your Spirit upon us, upon these gifts, the whole creation**. Pour us out for each other. Nourish the life of the earth.** Ignite your church. Make us, while many, one.
Make us, though broken, whole. Make us despite death, alive!
In this hope and as your people we pray …

Our Father/ Mother, hallowed by your name,
Your kingdom come, you will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread we need.
Forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.