**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer of Thanksgiving for use in the Diocese of Maine*

*by Martin L. Smith*

*Presider* The Holy One be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them up in joy.

*Presider* Let us give thanks to God.

*People* It is right to praise the One who is above all, and through all, and in all.

*Presider* Our hearts rejoice to praise you, source of all life and light, and to give you thanks at the heart of the church, oﬀering worship on behalf of all who share this earth. With all the angels and those who have gone before us into glory, we sing in adoration,

*Presider* *and the People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
    Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
    Hosanna in the highest.

*Presider* Your Spirit breathes within us to inspire our thanks and praise for the whole creation. In this land, which is your gift, the Maine we love, we praise you for all the splendors your hands have formed over countless ages. We give voice to the mountain ranges that extol you, the teeming forests that acclaim you. We sing the music of our rivers, coastlands and ocean waters, alive with myriad creatures.

*Presider* We oﬀer you our wondering praise for bringing our human race into

being. You endowed us with the power to love you in return, and to care for one another and this earth. We bless your Name for the ancestors who peopled this northern land in distant times and hallowed it, and for those who came here in the latter days from every corner of the world, shaping our cities and towns.

We thank you for sharing with us the gifts of your people Israel and for all that we learn from prophets and judges, priests and sages. The history of your chosen people, the brightness of their obedience and the shadow of their rebellion, holds up a mirror in which we see our need for your redeeming grace. Our hearts fill with grief as we confess that we have resisted your will in our land and failed to live in justice and peace in our own day.

Above all we give thanks for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, your beloved Son in whom you are well- pleased. You sent him to call us into a new life, free from violence and greed. He gave us power to pioneer, as his companions, a realm of enfolding mercy, love and truth. Rejection did not deter him from oﬀering his life for us, so he willingly plunged to the depths of our brokenness, suﬀering shameful death on the cross. But the grave could not hold him; you raised him up to share in your undying glory so that he might draw all to himself.

Before his passion, sharing his final meal with his friends, Jesus summoned us to unite us to himself in his oﬀering until the end of time through communion in his body and blood. He took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it. He gave it to his disciples, saying “Take, eat. This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper, he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.” So now we oﬀer you these gifts of bread and wine, in celebration of the oﬀering he made, his life poured out for our salvation. We rejoice in the triumph of self-giving love over the power of evil and death.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

*People* Christ has died and is alive! His Spirit fills our hearts! In him shall all be gathered into one!

*Presider* Now renew for us the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which our Risen Savior breathed into his disciples. May these holy gifts become for us his living body and life-giving blood, so that we might dwell in him and he in us. In the power of the Spirit may we live as Christ’s body in the world, sharing the good news and serving all in need.

Bless the ministries through which we spread your love among the people of Maine. In our parishes, our summer chapels, our partnership with the Wabanaki people, and our endeavors dedicated to the Care of Creation, may your resourceful grace abound among us.

May this Holy Eucharist bring blessings to all the church. Accept our prayers for all who live in the land we cherish -- those who come to Maine seeking refuge, or adventure, rest and play. Receive into your arms of mercy all who have gone before us in the faith of Christ.

To you, one true and living God, we oﬀer heartfelt thanks and joyful praise, for you are the Source of all life, upholding us in suﬀering and in joy: you are the Word made flesh in Jesus our brother: you are the Spirit who renews the face of the earth,

*People* AMEN.