

O God our Creator and Father of all things living,
We praise you for your generosity and your love
for your creation,
and for your vast works of stars and planets,
seas and skies and lands
and the rich resources by which we live.

And we thank you for your eternal Word
in law and prophecy,
in the Holy Scriptures in Old and New Testaments.
And most especially we thank you for sending us Jesus,
who came among us to complete your works¹
and to lead all people to praise you.

For in his incarnation as your living Word,
he redeemed us from the drudgery of our labors,
and brought new purpose to our lives as your children,
giving dignity to human efforts and honest labors,
especially asking us to imitate his compassion and generosity.

We remember that he called us his
friends,²
and gave the great proof of his love by
giving up his life for us.
For, at the final meal
he shared with his friends
on the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took Bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,



¹ John 5:36.

² Words of Institution adapted from John P. Mossi, *Bread Blessed and Broken*, p. 62.

he broke it and said,
“This is my body, broken for you.
Do this to remember me.”

In the same way, as the supper ended, he took the Cup,
praised your holy Name, and said:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all.

Do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.”



And so we come together, Father, to
give thanks
and to remember the life of Jesus, your
Word, among us.

We give you thanks for the
compassion, generosity and
faithfulness of Christian laborers
and workers in the Gospel—
knowing that their work is a form of
praise of your goodness and
grace.

We thank you for those who carry our burdens,
lighten our loads, or take on the tasks that, in our weakness,
we would rather avoid.

Bless, now, this Bread ✠ —the product of faithful work
to grow and harvest the grains,
to mill and prepare the flour,
to knead and bake these loaves.

Bless this Cup ✠ —the product of good vines
growing in the sun
and the work of those who tend and water,

harvest and crush the fruit you give us.

May we be nourished at this Table
in order to bear the fruits of the spirit in our own lives.

As the elements of this bread, ~
grains once scattered in the field,
were gathered together and made one,
so may your people be built up from the ends of the earth
and be gathered into your kingdom.³

And may our faithfulness and compassion be
signs of your presence to the community around us,
shared wherever people are burdened or broken,
and wherever people are crying out and seeking a sign
of your grace in their lives,
that your work, done through us, may lead all to rejoice in your
goodness.

To you, O God—
Father, Son and Holy Spirit—
be all honor and glory in your
holy church, now and forever.
Amen.



³ Adapted from the *Didache* 9; see John P. Mossi, *Bread Blessed and Broken*, p. 118.