

Believe Celebrate Live
THE EUCHARIST

Giving Thanks

We have listened to God's word.

Now, in the light of that word, we come to the altar,
the table of sacrifice prepared for our holy meal,
the Eucharist.

As our gifts are brought to the altar—
our monetary offerings, along with the bread and the wine—
we are called to offer something more as well:
our lives, our very selves.

We come before God with our strengths and our weaknesses,
our struggles as well as our joys.

We offer our lives to God to be transformed in the Eucharist
even as our gifts of bread and wine will be transformed.

The great prayer we are about to begin, the Eucharistic Prayer,
is about remembrance. "Do this," Jesus said, "in memory of me."

But this is a special kind of remembering that makes Jesus' saving action
present among us, here and now. Jesus is truly with us,
just as he was with his disciples on the night of the Last Supper.

It is still Jesus who takes the bread and wine, changes them into his Body and Blood,
and shares his very self with us so that he can live *through* us, *with* us, and *in* us.

As we give thanks to God in this marvelous prayer, we are united,
not only with those around us, but with all the followers of Jesus
throughout the world, through all generations, past, present, and future.

In the Eucharist, we are caught up, for a moment,
into God's eternity, present here and now.