

## **Eucharistic Prayer for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Grinnell, Iowa**

*The people remain standing throughout. The Celebrant, facing them, says or sings:*

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

*It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

*Then, the Celebrant continues:*

We should always remember to thank you, our Root and Source of life.

For you brought light and life into the world, you made the wind your messenger, you gave us rain for the earth, and you commanded the sun.

You have created the little blue stem and the blazing star, the black eyed susan and the purple prairie clover. You made the monarch and the bumble bee, the golden and the bald eagles.

You made us, humankind, to be stewards of the earth and all that grows on it. You renewed us by sending your Son Jesus Christ, who by becoming one of us, showed us the way of love. He is, for us, like the roots of your prairie grasses, deeply dug into the earth to be our foundation and anchor.

For all this we give thanks and praise, joining together with the voices of all your saints who have lived the way of love, singing this hymn that proclaims your power.

*Celebrant and People:*

Holy, Holy, Holy, 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.

*Then the Celebrant continues:*

Creator and Source of life, we are grateful that in love you made us to be caretakers of your creation, but like the branch that separates from the vine, we have turned away from you. We have forgotten to live in the way of love, caring for your people and the natural world, as caretakers of your creation.

You remained faithful and in love sent your son, Jesus, to live as one of us, to teach us the way back to you. Just as fire in the prairie restores new life, Jesus offered his own body on the cross to be the one and only sacrifice for all of creation, to show us the way to new life in you.

*At the appropriate words the Celebrant places a hand on the bread*

On the night before he died, Jesus taught his disciples, saying, "This is my commandment, 'that you love one another as I have loved you.'" He took bread, broke it, gave thanks, and shared it with them saying, "Take and eat, this is my Body, given for you and for all creation. Do this to remember me."

*Celebrant bows at the waist while silence is kept.*

*Celebrant continues and at the appropriate words places a hand on the cup of wine.*

Then he took the cup of wine, and said "I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I

in them bear much fruit." He gave thanks and shared it with his friends, saying, "Take and drink, this is my Blood, shed for you and for all creation. Do this to remember me."

*Celebrant bows at the waist while silence is kept. Celebrant continues:*

Together, let us tell of the mystery of the resurrection:

*Celebrant and People say:*

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

*The Celebrant continues:*

Remembering Jesus' life and death, and celebrating our place in salvation, we offer these gifts of bread and wine, as a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They were made with human hands from the gifts of your creation. We also offer ourselves, a living sacrifice, to be your people. Let us bear fruit as the branches of the vine.

*Celebrant gestures to the gifts of bread and wine, and to those gathered to share in the sacrament.*

Send your Spirit on these gifts, to be a Holy Sacrament. Make them for us the Body and Blood of your Son. Send your Spirit, also, on us, your people, so that we may be a Sacrament to the world. Grant to us the strength to be the hands of Christ in the world, to work for the earth's healing and to bring your people back to you, and give us hope in the promise that you will bring your creation to fulfillment through Jesus Christ.

We ask all of these things through your Son Jesus Christ. Through him, through the Holy Spirit which he sent for us as an advocate and ever present guide, and through you, Creator God, all honor and glory belong to you. AMEN.

The service continues with the Lord's Prayer (contemporary version)

*This Eucharistic Prayer was written by Jennifer Latham, a member of St. Paul's-Grinnell, Iowa, as a seminarian in study for her MDiv. Jenn wrote this prayer for a course in liturgy at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, an Episcopal seminary in Berkeley, California.*

*Jenn was also part of the group at St. Paul's that worked to create a "pocket prairie", a small natural plant area with permeable pavers and Iowa grasses.*