A Great Thanksgiving for Workers

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right for us to praise you, O God, our Creator,
as we lift our hearts and our labors to you.
Through your Divine work, you brought forth all that is.
You made ladybugs and lava flows, mountains and mushrooms,
Light and dark, and time itself.
You created us, that we might join in your work of creation.
When we were captives, you carved out paths of freedom.
And when we turned away from your love, you went to work –
calling us to remember our purpose and leading us home.
You spoke to us through your servants,
and called us to wait in hope for the day when your creation would be made whole.

And so, Loving Creator, we praise you,
and join our voices with all that you have made in the unending hymn:

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

Blessed are you, O God, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,
whose calloused hands showed the marks of labor.
Through his life, Jesus taught us how to serve one another and to serve you,
using our bodies and our talents to build lives of purpose.
He offered kindness to those who toiled –
in kitchens, in fields, in palaces, in armies.
He blessed the efforts of tax collectors and technicians, stone masons and sentries.

Through his suffering, death, and resurrection, you overcame sin and death,
and called us into a new covenant of water and Spirit,
where our labor might be part of the work you are doing in our midst.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, we remember this act, the sacrifice of the workers who prepared the table, and the sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
and we offer ourselves to you, proclaiming the mystery of faith:

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

As we gather this morning, bringing our whole selves to your holy table
we pray that you might send your Spirit,
to fill this bread and this cup,
the fruits of your land and the toil of faithful hands.
Bless our hearts as we receive your Spirit,
and unite us in the light and love of Christ.
that we may serve you and your people with joy and purpose
until you come again to dwell with us,
and we sit together at Christ's heavenly table.

Through Jesus the Christ, with your Holy Spirit in the Church that you love,
we offer you praise and blessing, this day and all days.
Amen.

Written for the Worship for Workers Project of Fuller Seminary by Calissa Dauterman from Atlanta, Georgia.