

Thanksgiving at the Table

*Written for the baptism of Eleanor Rebecca Frantz
November 26, 2023*

Word of Institution pulled from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p.111.
All other text is written by Rebecca Ajer Frantz, 2023.

Blessed are you, God of every time and place.

You have met your people in ways big and small:
in visits from strangers at tents and from angels at springs.
in burning bushes and rushing winds.
in stilled water and sheer silence.

We celebrate your incarnation among us in Jesus Christ.
He was sought after and yet still sought out those who others forgot.
He healed the sick,
restored the broken,
reconciled the outcast with their community,
advocated for the least,
and promised, as Emmanuel, to be with us until the end of the age.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In this meal, Jesus meets us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

With this cup of wine and these pieces of bread,
our God comes to us in things we can smell, hold, and taste.

By your Spirit, Holy One, come to us once more.
Awaken us to your presence.
Fill us with your light.
Join us with the saints you have met before us in every age and place.
Amen.