

LET US GIVE THANKS AND REMEMBER

It is good to give thanks to You, O Lord,
to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.
Psalm 92:1

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 32

- (L) *Let us remember the goodness of God.*
(All) *We remember, with grateful hearts.*
(L) *God has given us the sun, the moon, the earth and all that is in it.*
God has given us children, youth, and adults of faith and courage.
(All) *We remember, with grateful hearts.*
(L) *God gave us new hope and a new life in Christ.*
With all creation, let us come and worship God.
(All) *We remember, with thankful hearts.*

HYMN

*Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son. (repeat)*
*And now, let the weak say I am strong,
Let the poor say I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us,
(repeat)
Give thanks, give thanks.*

GREETING

*The doors of welcome are open wide.
We welcome every man, woman, youth and
child who is disturbed by a sense of need,
who hungers for a holier life,
who seeks a better world
and who aspires to faithfully follow Jesus.*
*We summon you:
To the beauty of the worship of God-
To the service of bewildered humanity-
To a friendly fellowship with others who
seek the best-
To the dangerous adventure of building
a new world in Christ.*

PSALM 150:1-6

*Praise the Lord!
Praise God in His sanctuary;
praise Him in His mighty heavens!
Praise Him for His mighty deeds;
praise Him according to His excellent greatness!*
*Praise Him with trumpet sound;
praise Him with lute and harp!
Praise Him with tambourine and dance;
praise Him with strings and pipe!
Praise Him with sounding cymbals;
praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!*



Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

SCRIPTURE:1 Peter 1:6-9

This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honor. You did not see Him, yet you love Him; and still without seeing Him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

REFLECTION

One reason we fail to thank God for blessings is that we forget them. What did God do for you yesterday, last week, a year ago? Do you remember? If you do not, how can you be properly thankful? Most of us give God a laundry list of requests in the morning. Then, as we go through the day, we more or less forget God and fail to notice how His answers are working themselves out in events. So, when we return to Him the next morning, we just give Him another laundry list of the same kind, consisting of requests without our thanksgiving.

Thanking God is one way we show that we love Him. But 1 John 4:20 says, "If a person say, I love God, and hates their brothers or sisters, they are a liar: for the one that loves not their brother or sister whom they have seen, how can they love God whom they have not seen?" We might also say, "If someone says, I am grateful to God, and is ungrateful to their brother or sister, that person is a liar: for those that do not give thanks to their brother or sister whom they have seen, how can they give thanks to God whom they have not seen?" In other words, I will more readily thank God for His benefits if I customarily show gratitude to the people around me. A sincere "Thank you" should always be on my lips. I should say it to a brother, a sister, a spouse, a parent, a child, a neighbor, a clerk at the store, a person on the street. Then, because I have set gratitude at the core of my character, I will remember to give a heartfelt "Thank you" to God.

As we learn the habit of thanking people and acknowledging our dependence on them, we will develop a keener sense of our dependence on God. He is our Creator, the Giver of Life both in this world and in the world to come. Through Him life has meaning and purpose. The past holds no enduring shadows. The future shines with hope. It is He Who covers our sins with a robe of righteousness, Who makes our failures a training ground for spiritual success, Who equips and improves us until we can serve night and day in His temple forever. He is the One Who will erase all our pain and dry all our tears and give us a new body to serve as a tabernacle for the soul; a body that the Bible describes as spiritual, powerful, and immortal; a body so wonderful that we cannot now imagine what it will be like. There is nothing good that does not come from God. There is nothing bad in anything He does or in anything He designs. So, as we ponder the meaning of Thanksgiving, let us indeed give thanks—let us give thanks to the Great Benefactor Whose goodness many people on that day will ignore and resent. Let us not be among them. Let us prove ourselves to be God's children by giving Him the praise He is due.

SOMETHING TO DO

List three things that you have never thanked God for. (Possible answers—air conditioning, modern communications allowing you to stay in touch with family, social security, antibiotics.)

List three things you have never thanked your parents, family, friends or colleagues for— (Possible answers—putting up with your quirks and other faults, having patience when you do not act responsibly, cleaning up after me.)

List three persons you have never thanked for anything. (Possible answers—a public servant such as the mayor or Council person, police or fire personnel who risk their life for your sake, the person who has always been there for you, your doctors, teachers, coaches.)



PRAYER of INTERCESSION

**God of the living,
with all Your creatures great and small
we sing Your bounty and Your goodness,
for in the harvest of land and ocean,
in the cycles of the seasons,
and the wonders of each creature,
You reveal Your generosity.
Teach us the gratitude that dispels envy,
that we may honor each gift as You cherish Your creation,
and praise You in all times and places.**

(L) That this day may be holy, good and joyful:

(All) we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.

**(L) That we may offer to You our worship and praise along
with the work of our hands, minds and hearts:**

(All) we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.

(L) That we may strive for the well-being of all creation:

(All) we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.

**(L) That in the pleasures and pains of life,
we may know the love of Christ and be thankful:**

(All) we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.

**(L) That we may be bound together by Your Holy Spirit,
in communion with all Your holy ones,
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ:**

(All) we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.

**(L) That we may always and everywhere give thanks to You, O God,
for all of our blessings and giftedness:**

(All) we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.

PRAYER

**O God,
in Your Son Jesus Christ
You richly bless us with all that we need,
bread from the earth and the bread of heaven,
which gives life to the world.
Grant us one thing more:
that we might have grateful hearts to sing Your praise,
in this world and the world to come. Amen.**

**The Angelus
by
Jean Millet
1859**



BLESSINGS FOR THANKSGIVING

- (L) May the Lord of all creation shower His blessings and favor upon us.
(All) Amen.**
- (L) May the Lord of the harvest grace our Thanksgiving table with His presence
and fill our loved ones with peace.
(All) Amen.**
- (L) May the Lord of salvation guide us all our days until we come into the joys of His
eternal kingdom.
(All) Amen.**
- (L) And may almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
(All) Amen.**

HYMNN: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

*For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.*

Refrain

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.*

Refrain

*For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight.*

Refrain

*For each perfect gift of Thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of Heaven.*

Refrain



***Saint John Baptist de La Salle,
inspire us to be people of thanksgiving.***

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!