



November 23, 2020

ALL PRAISE AND THANKS TO THE ONE WHO IS WORTHY!

We discover over and over again in God's Word that He, alone, is worthy of our praise. Our praise, adoration, and thanksgiving bring Him delight and increases our intimacy with Him.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND HAPPY NOVEMBER

Hello Saints, Family and Friends!

Thanksgiving is a day set aside to be thankful. On behalf of the Woman's Auxiliary of the East Cedar Grove MBA, may you be blessed with a wonderful Thanksgiving. Sometimes we forget to tell people thank you, for being in our lives. Today, I will try to make up for all the times I've forgotten to say thank you for helping me and being there. You are special and my life is better because of you.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite days of the year, because it reminds us to give thanks and to count our blessings. Suddenly, so many things become so little when we realize how blessed we are. Between all the big day preparation and cooking that has to be started, it is easy for all of us to get swept up in the festive chaos and lose sight of a thankful heart. Let us be reminded that family isn't always about the people in your life who are blood relations. It is about the people in your life who want you to be in theirs. It is about the people in your life who accept you for who you are, support you in the things you choose to do and no matter what, are there for you. It is the people in your life who love you, respect you and who you can depend on. That is family! Now, because there is community but no contact, because there are smiles but they exist under masks and so much is so very different, and yet, it still feels the same. How? Because Faith is still filling the pews. Grace is still grounding our worship. God's love is still very much alive. And the Body of Christ is still connected. "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1) This is why I can say, "Happy November." No matter what changes in our world or in our worship, God's promise of love will endure. Isn't that something to be happy about?

Does it seem strange to use "happy" as the adjective of choice in describing this month? Perhaps disappointing or divisive or anxious or mournful would be a better descriptor for you? After all, there are many reasons why this month may be a tough one. First, the pandemic not only continues in our midst but appears to be surging again in parts of our country. Second, many of you are struggling with online or hybrid schooling and or work-from-home situations that are less than ideal and a state of social isolation that has been going on far longer than any would have imagined. Third, the presidential election. Need I say more? I'm sure you all could add additional elements to the list that will make this a challenging month, but I stand by my introductory words, Happy November!

What makes this November a happy one? Well, let me tell you what I heard recently said after several folks had a first time worshipping in the parking lot drive-in service as you may call it. When asked what they thought of their first drive-in pandemic service in the parking lot, they said, "It was so different, but it felt the same." How can something be different and yet the same? If you have been able to attend in-person worship in the drive-in service, you may know the answer. It is incredibly different because there is less music and no singing, because there is blended liturgy and no responsive or collective recitation, because there is communion but we are physically distanced.

As we head into the holiday season, I hope you have a safe and happy holiday filled with peace, love and happiness. I am sending you my warm wishes from home to home and from heart to heart wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving!

In Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica, he makes clear God's will for us: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ~ I Thessalonians 5:18.

I have a few favorite prayers attached and I humbly request that you pray these with me.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Annie R. Gibson
Reverend Annie Gibson
President, Woman's Auxiliary

Sister Judy S. Jacobs,
Publicity Chairperson





PRAYERS



Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before you today, not to ask for anything but humbly giving thanks for all You have done for us.

We appreciate You, oh Father, for sending Your Son to die on that old rugged cross to redeem us of our sins.

Thank you, Jesus, for enduring so much pain and suffering for our salvation. We pray that we will be blessed with the same kind of strength to endure life for Your sake.

We give you thanks for giving us, and our family and loved ones, health and strength. Oh Lord, thank you for your unconditional, undying, never-failing, endless love that graces us each day.



Heavenly Father,

On Thanksgiving Day, we bow our hearts to You and pray. We give You thanks for all You've done, especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son. For beauty in nature, Your glory we see, for joy and health, friends, and family. For daily provision, Your mercy and care, these are the blessings You graciously share. So today we offer this response of praise with a promise to follow You all of our days.

Thank You For My Countless Blessings



Heavenly Father, I want to thank You for my countless blessings. I thank You not only for the food I have to eat, lovingly prepared for me, but also for spiritual gifts, in particular the loved ones I cherish dearly, a comfortable place to live, the beauty that surrounds me, health, and spiritual wealth to name a few. I acknowledge you for the countless blessings You've provided. I thank You for giving us clear direction through Your Holy Word. Through good and bad times, help me to see that we are blessed beyond measure. Amen.

Thank You For Those I Love and Those in Need



Heavenly Father, I want to thank you for blessing me. Today, I pray not only for my loved ones, but also for those around me in positions of need. When I have food, help me to remember the hungry; When I have work, help me to remember the jobless; When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all; When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer, And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency; help me to have compassion for those around me, and be concerned enough to help; By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen.

Thank You For Your Grace and Generosity



Heavenly Father, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon me and receive my heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks. I acknowledge You for all gifts and blessings You have bestowed upon us: food and shelter, health, love we have for one another, my family and friends. I thank you for Your infinite generosity. Please grant me continued Grace and blessings throughout the coming year. In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen.



Prayer Ideas for Giving Thanks on Thanksgiving Day

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O Lord, with humble hearts we pray
thy blessing this Thanksgiving Day
and ask that at table place,
where grateful folk say words of grace,
that Thou will come to share the yield
thy bounty gave to farm and field.
We pray thy love will bless, O Lord,
each hearth, each home, each festive board;
and that Thy peace will come to stay
where candles glow, Thanksgiving Day.



We Give Thanks

Our Father in Heaven,
we give thanks for the pleasure
of gathering together for this occasion.
We give thanks for this food
prepared by loving hands.
We give thanks for life,
the freedom to enjoy it all
and all other blessings.
As we partake of this food,
we pray for health and strength
to carry on and try to live as You would have us.
This we ask in the name of Christ,
our Heavenly Father.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Father, We Thank Thee

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
Father, we thank Thee.
For tender grass so fresh, so sweet,
Father, we thank Thee.
For the song of bird and hum of bee,
for all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.
For blue of stream and blue of sky,
Father, we thank Thee.
For pleasant shade of branches high,
Father, we thank Thee.
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
for beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.
For this new morning with its light,
Father, we thank Thee.
For rest and shelter of the night,
Father, we thank Thee
For health and food, for love and friends,
for everything Thy goodness sends,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Oh, God, when I have food
help me to remember the hungry;
when I have work, help me
to remember the jobless;
when I have a warm home,
help me to remember the homeless;
when I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer;
and remembering, help me
to destroy my complacency
and bestir my compassion.
Make me concerned enough
to help, by word and deed,
those who cry out
for what we take for granted.
—Samuel F. Pugh



Be Present

Be present at our table, Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.

Thy creatures bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with Thee.

Thanksgiving Blessing

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
for the wide sky and the blessed sun,
for the salt sea and the running water,
for the everlasting hills
and the never-resting winds,
for trees and the common grass underfoot.

We thank you for our senses
by which we hear the songs of birds,
and see the splendor of the summer fields,
and taste of the autumn fruits,
and rejoice in the feel of the snow,
and smell the breath of the spring.

Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
and save our souls from being so blind
that we pass unseeing
when even the common thornbush
is aflame with your glory,

O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
—Walter Rauschenbusch

Table Blessing

Thank You, God, for the food we are about to eat,
for those who are here to share these blessings,
for the generosity of our hosts that make this possible.
Bless those who are here and those who are in our hearts,
and all those who are not as fortunate on this day. Amen.

HAPPY
thanksgiving

Bountiful Provisions

Father, we thank you for your abundant mercy and grace toward us.
We honor you this day as we gather together in a family full of gratitude.
We thank you for this meal and the hands that prepared it.
We thank you for your bountiful provisions.
We ask that you equip and encourage us to serve others who are in need.
May we be good stewards of your creation and of all our talents and blessings.
We proclaim glory and honor to you.
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Thanksgiving Dinner Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day,
we bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done,
especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see,
for joy and health, friends, and family.
For daily provision, Your mercy and care,
these are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise with
a promise to follow You all of our days.

Abundant Blessing

We thank you for the turkey,
The gravy, and the dressing.
Dear Lord, this table overflows
Wwith Thy abundant blessing.

Let us always be aware
That all gifts come from You,
And may we serve Your heavenly will
In everything we do. Amen.
— Joanna Fuchs



Nothing to Fear

We thank you, Lord, for food and friends,
and for all of the joy this holiday lends.

It's Thanksgiving Day and we can see the blessings you've provided our family.

Thanks to you, Lord, for another good year;
When you watch over us, there's nothing to fear.

Rest and Shelter

For each new morning with its light,
for rest and shelter of the night,
for health and food,
for love and friends,
for everything Thy goodness sends.



He Is Good

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
Serve the LORD with gladness:
come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that the LORD he is God:
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
For the LORD is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endured to all generations.
– Psalm 100

A Prayer of Thanksgiving: Grateful for the Giver

Lord, as I participate in the all-too-consuming activities that require my attention today,
I pray that I would not lose sight of You.

Give me this day a heart of gratitude.

Give me a heart of gratitude which looks beyond my appreciation
for things,
for comfort,
for peace,
for prosperity.

Give me a heart of gratitude which is ever and always
thankful for the Giver
thankful for the One who has provided
thankful for the One who, unlike His gifts,
will never fade away.

Give me a heart of gratitude which refuses
to surrender to frivolous complaint,
to seek more than you have given,
to succumb to the annoyances and frustrations of this world.

Give me a heart of gratitude which is so filled with thanksgiving
that worry and concern have no room.

Give me a heart of gratitude which remembers you as the
present Giver who is my refuge and my portion.

Give me a heart of gratitude which cries out thanksgiving and praise
even in the midst of anguish, pain, and frustration.

Give me a heart of gratitude which is capable of love, hope, and peace
despite the tensions, hurts, and foolishness of this world.

Give me a heart of gratitude which is ever and always Yours. Amen.



Thank You!