

**BEING PEOPLE of THANKSGIVING**  
**Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.**  
**In all circumstances give thanks,**  
**for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.**  
Thessalonians 5: 16-18



**PRESENCE OF GOD**

**With hearts filled with thanksgiving we pause and remember that the God Who created us, Who loves us, and Who redeemed us is still with us now in this place. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**PSALM 135 (136)**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
for His love is for ever.**

**Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for His love is for ever.**

**Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for His love is for ever.**

**He alone works wonders,  
for His love is for ever.**

**In His wisdom He made the heavens,  
for His love is for ever.**

**He set the Earth upon the waters,  
for His love is for ever.**

**He created the great lights,  
for His love is for ever.**

**The sun, to rule over the day,  
for His love is for ever.**

**The moon and stars, to rule over the night,  
for His love is for ever.**

**He remembered us in our affliction,  
for His love is for ever.**

**He rescued us from our enemies,  
for His love is for ever.**

**He gives food to all creatures that live,  
for His love is for ever.**

**Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for His love is for ever.**

**ALL:**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**HYMN: LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING**

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God the Creator triumphantly raise.  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished  
As forward we travel from light into light.**



**His law He enforces, the stars in their courses  
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise**

#### **PRAYER**

**It is right and just that we give You, O Good God, our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we pause and remember all that You have done for us throughout our lifetime; the many gifts You see fit to bestow upon us, and Your abiding presence. You nourish us in body and soul and sustain us with Your Holy Word, the sacraments, and one another.**

#### **PRAYER BEFORE the SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Lord, open our hearts to hear Your Holy Word proclaimed to us today. Let Your Spirit speak to us as we hear Your Word.**

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**2 Corinthians 9: 6-15**

**Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

**Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.**

**As it is written: "He scatters abroad, He gives to the poor; His goodness endures forever."**

**The One who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.**

**You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.**

**You are glorifying God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your contribution to others.**

**Thanks be to God for His indescribable gifts!**

#### **LUKE 17: 11-19**

**As Jesus continued His journey to Jerusalem, He traveled through Samaria and Galilee.**

**As He was entering a village, ten lepers met Him. They stood at a distance from Him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when He saw them, He said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed.**

**And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine?"**

**Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"**

**Then He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."**

## REFLECTION

While Thanksgiving is traditionally a time in the United States when families feast on the abundance of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pies, it is important to be mindful of the food and hunger situation in our country and our world. We remember on this feast of gratitude for bounty and abundance, that not all of our brothers and sisters are able to share in this banquet. Why? What is happening in our world?

- ❖ More than 800 million people in the world go hungry.
- ❖ In developing countries, 6 million children die each year, mostly from hunger-related causes.
- ❖ In the United States, 12 million children live in households where people have to skip meals or eat less to make ends meet. That means one in ten households in the U.S. are living with hunger or are at risk of hunger.
- ❖ More than 840 million people in the world are malnourished—799 million of them are from the developing world. More than 153 million of them are under the age of 5.
- ❖ Of the 6.2 billion people in today's world, 1.2 billion live on less than \$1 per day.
- ❖ The proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day has fallen from 29 percent to 23 percent in the past 10 years, although that masks significant regional differences.
- ❖ Malnutrition can severely affect a child's intellectual development. Children who have stunted growth due to malnutrition score significantly lower on math and language achievement tests than do well-nourished children.
- ❖ Virtually every country in the world has the potential of growing sufficient food on a sustainable basis. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has set the minimum requirement for caloric intake per person per day at 2,350. Worldwide, there are 2,805 calories available per person per day. Fifty-four countries fall below that requirement; they do not produce enough food to feed their populations, nor can they afford to import the necessary commodities to make up the gap. Most of these countries are in sub-Saharan Africa.

As bread that was scattered on the hillside was gathered together and made one,

So, too, we, Your people, scattered throughout the world, are gathered together around Your table and become one.

Let us eat and drink today with grateful thanks for this oneness with all. May we be more aware of our call to reach out to others in our daily lives, and so be transformed by Your presence within.

Our gratitude today is for You, God of all, and Your blessings on us through one another. Open our eyes to those who are poor, our ears to the cry of those in need, our hearts to the oppressed and our lives to Your call to be peacemakers. Today and forever. Amen.

## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

**RESPONSE: WE PRAISE AND THANK YOU, O GOD.**

- + We praise and thank our God for all that we have been given!**
- + We praise and thank our God for earth and oceans, rain and sun, for food and homes.**
- + We praise and thank our God for the blessings of life of faith and of hope.**
- + We praise and thank our God for the Creator Who made us, the Christ Who saved us, and the Counselor Who guides us.**
- + We praise and thank our God for family and friends, for neighbors and coworkers.**
- + We praise and thank our God for God has blessed us beyond all expectations.**
- + We praise and thank our God for all blessings which compel us to reach out to those with less, to be of service to any in need, to keep company with the unwelcome, to seek peace and make friends of our enemies.**
- + We praise and thank our God for all who serve us in government.**
- + We praise and thank our God for all who watch over us: police, fire, doctors and health care workers, care givers, teachers and pastors.**
- + We praise and thank our God for all who lift our spirits and for those who bring beauty, music and dance to our lives.**

**Let us pray:**

**ALL: Lord God, You have enriched us, saved us, loved us. Open our hearts and minds to Your will that we may be free to share everything we have, to give away whatever holds us hostage in spirit, that we may always know that possessions are just that: things, lovely to have, but in the end only good for the good they can do in this world. Keep us always in that work, the work of Christ and Christ's kingdom, the kingdom of God. Amen.**

## **PRAYER**



**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!"  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thank to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.  
Give thanks. Give thanks.**

## **HYMN: PRAISE TO THE LORD!**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,  
Join me in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again;  
Singing His praises we adore Him.**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

**And so, this day, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us go forth to feast and fellowship with one another; to remember the needy in our prayers and with our gifts; to recall and recount what God has done for Us; and to turn to Christ with faith and thanksgiving, that we may reap a harvest of joy. As Christians, every day can and should be Thanksgiving. So should our days also become thanks-living. Amen.**



**Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you.  
Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom.  
With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns  
and inspired songs to God.**

**Colossians 3:16**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
inspire us to be people of thankfulness and praise.**

**Live Jesus ion our hearts.  
Forever!**