

NOVEMBER 23, 2017
THANKSGIVING DAY



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A HYMN FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

*Praise God from Whom
All Blessings Flow*



A thankful heart is a generous heart.

THANKSGIVING DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect upon these Bible passages as part of your Thanksgiving Day celebrations.

Thursday	Luke 17:11-19	The ten lepers
	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
	Psalms 65	God answers prayer
	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

You will be blessed in every way, and you will be able to keep on being generous. **2 Corinthians 9:11 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day:

Gracious God, we thank you for blessing us with your goodness each day. Help us to respond with a generous heart. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, you who feed the hungry and heal the sick, we give thanks to you for all that you have provided for us. As we share this food, please give us health and strength to love and serve others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with eyes to see God's goodness and a heart to give thanks for all that you receive.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What were the major events that took place in your life this year?
- What are your best memories?
- Did anyone experience hard times? If so, what did you learn or how did you grow?
- In what ways did you experience God's love and care?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 17:11-19.

After your Thanksgiving meal, gather together and read the above scripture. The Samaritan leper returned to Jesus and gave thanks for his healing. Talk about what you are thankful for. After each person mentions what they are thankful for, the group responds:

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

As an alternative devotion, gather in a large space and toss a ball or another item to one another. Whoever catches the item tells what they are thankful for. After everyone has had a chance to talk, close with the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



Thankfulness involves more than being obedient to God's commands. It is a response to God's love that leads to deep appreciation for what God has done and is doing in our lives. Consider how God's love and care for you gives you a thankful heart and a desire to be loving and generous to others. Find some way to express your thanksgiving by being generous to someone else this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



After the Thanksgiving feasting, the groaning, and the tummy patting, a traditional Christian tradition is to take a leisurely group walk outside, weather permitting. Head out into the world to get fresh air and to feel the satisfied quietness of abundance and the thankfulness for one another and the wonder of God's creation.