

SCRIPTURES FOR THANKSGIVING

While Thanksgiving is a national holiday, the tradition of giving thanks at the end of the harvest is a religious event celebrated in most cultures. The national practice of giving thanks in November is therefore quite biblical.

Scripture abounds with thanksgiving to God, for thanksgiving is part of the Christian way of life, no matter what the circumstances. These are just a few scriptures you may wish to use for a Thanksgiving liturgy.

For a church service Col. 1 is particularly appropriate, bridging the liturgy between Christ the King Sunday and the First Sunday in Advent. In lean years, other scriptures, such as that of Habakkuk may be more appropriate.

O give thanks to the LORD, call upon the Holy One's name, and make known God's deeds among the peoples.

--1 Chronicles 16: 8

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
I will recount all of God's wonderful deeds.

—Psalm 9:1

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and pay your vows to the Most High.
"Those one who offer thanksgiving as their sacrifice glorify me;
To those who order their way rightly
I will show the salvation of God!"

—Psalm 50:14, 23

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your loving-kindness in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night...
For you, O Lord, have made me glad
by what you have done,.
I will sing for joy at the work of your hands.
How great are your works, O Lord!

-Psalm 92:1, 4-5

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to God's holy name!

—Psalm 97:12

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and into the divine courts with praise!
Give thanks to the Lord; bless God's holy name!

—Psalm 100:4

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon God's name;
make known the divine deeds among the peoples!
Sing to the Holy One, sing praises to the Lord.
Tell of all God's wondrous works!

—Psalm 105:1-2

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the people;
and I will sing praises to you among the nations,
for your loving-kindness is great above the heavens;
and your truth reaches to the skies.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

-Psalm 108:3-5

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

--Isaiah 12:1-6

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls; yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

--Habakkuk 3:17-19

Everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God

--2 Cor. 4:15

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

--2 Cor. 9:[1-10]11-15

Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God.

-Ephesians 5:19-20

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

—Philippians 4:6

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God's beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to Godself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, Christ has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before God--provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.

--Col. 1:1-23

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

--Col. 2:6-7

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5: 18

I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all people.

-- 1 Timothy 2: 1

For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused if it be received with thanksgiving.
--1 Timothy 4:4

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

--Rev. 7:11-12