

NOVEMBER 23, 2023
THANKSGIVING DAY



Remember to give thanks for God's blessings.

THANKSGIVING DAY BIBLE READINGS

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

Thursday	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	The Lord takes care of you
	Psalms 65	Thanksgiving for creation
	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
	Luke 17:11-19	The ten lepers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing.

Deuteronomy 8:7-9a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day:

God of generosity and abundance, we thank you for your goodness to us. Help us to recall your goodness, especially in our support and care of others for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food and for all the ways you protect and care for us day by day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love and faithfulness give you a thankful heart.



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HYMN FOR THANKSGIVING

DAY

Have You Thanked the Lord?

THANKSGIVING DAY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are you thankful for? What gets in the way of being thankful?
- What traditions come to mind for you on Thanksgiving Day?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Deuteronomy 8:7-18.

The history of thanksgiving is at least as old as the Bible. Deuteronomy records what a biblical thanksgiving looks like. First, it is filled with wonder and delight at God's goodness for bringing people out of despair and into a fruitful and well-watered land. It is a land—like our own country—of plenty that provides all we need to live in peace. The crucial ingredient to biblical thanksgiving is to remember the source of that plenty. This is done by living according to God's teachings that promise peace and contentment for all. The challenge is that we forget. We are guilty of exulting ourselves at times by thinking that the blessings of life are due to the "power and the might of my own hand" (v. 17). Woven in this text is a call to remember and to repent of our forgetfulness. We give thanks as we turn away from self-satisfaction and to the goodness of God, the source of all blessings, who promises peace and contentment for all.

Discuss: What blessings and benefits do you want to remember as you give thanks for what God provides us?

Pray: **God of the abundant harvest, your creation gives us more than we need. Give us hearts that are thankful, satisfied, and ready to share your plenty and goodness in Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how can you share God's abundance with others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



One of the lepers, a Samaritan, returned to Jesus to give thanks for his healing (Luke 17:16). Today is a day to embrace the opportunity for us to give thanks for God's goodness in our lives. After the Thanksgiving meal, gather in a space where you can toss a ball or another item to one another making sure each person has a chance to catch the item. The person who catches the item tells what they are thankful for. After everyone has had a turn, close with this blessing:

May God bless you with a generous and thankful heart now and always.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org