

NOVEMBER 26, 2020
THANKSGIVING DAY



God loves a cheerful giver.

THANKSGIVING DAY BIBLE READINGS

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

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

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day:

Gracious God, we thank you for your love and bringing us healing, hope, and joy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you that you water the earth, provide grain for food, and place before us the fruit of the earth for this meal today. Amen. (Psalm 65:9)

A Blessing to Give:

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



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HYMN FOR THANKSGIVING

DAY

Oh, Sing to God Above

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:

- Name or think about something for which you are thankful. Explain.
- Give an example or think about when you have been a cheerful giver.
- How does practicing generosity impact your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 17:11-19.

There is a difference between what one wants to do and what one needs to do. Jesus tells the healed lepers that they need to go to the priests to confirm their healing, and they do. However, only one leper is compelled by an inner desire to return to Jesus and offer thanks. Although all ten are healed, Jesus says to the Samaritan, the outsider who desires to give thanks, "your faith has made you well" (v. 19). These are the same words used by Jesus in other stories in Luke, including the woman at his anointing (7:50), the hemorrhaging woman (8:48), and the blind beggar (18:42). In Luke 7:50 the phrase is translated, "Your faith has saved you." The same Greek words can be translated as "saved you" or "made you well." Health and salvation belong together. A thankful heart belongs to both health and salvation. How is your health strengthened by a thankful heart? How is your faith strengthened by thanksgiving? By cheerfulness?

Pray: **God of glory, we thank you for your generosity that blesses us with health and salvation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Giving with a thankful heart blesses both the giver and the receiver of one's generosity.

Practice generosity this week and think or talk about how it blesses you as well as those who are the recipients of your care.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The first Thanksgiving was held in the early 1600's by Puritans and Pilgrims immigrating from England to America. President George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide celebration in November of 1789 "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God." Invite each person at your table to name something they are thankful for and then after each person has shared, conclude with: **Thanks be to God for the Lord's indescribable gifts! Amen.**

