

NOVEMBER 22, 2018  
THANKSGIVING DAY



*A thankful heart acknowledges God's blessings.*

## THANKSGIVING DAY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Joel 2:21-27</b>	<b>Do not fear</b>
	<b>1 Timothy 2:1-7</b>	<b>Lead a quiet and peaceable life</b>
	<b>Psalms 126</b>	<b>The LORD has done great things</b>
	<b>Matthew 6:25-33</b>	<b>Seek first God's kingdom</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.  
**Psalms 126:3 (NRSV)**

## 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 peace and a thankful heart.



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HYMN FOR THANKSGIVING

DAY

*Give Thanks*



## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What are you thankful for?
- How can you give thanks in the midst of difficult times? Give an example of when you have done this.
- What great things has God done for you?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Matthew 6:25-33.

It is difficult to give thanks while you worry about your day or what might happen in the future. We can worry about so many things that, in the long run, are just not that important. Jesus mentions items that seem to get at the core of our needs: food, drink, and clothing. And yet, even with things we might consider essentials, Jesus says we are not to worry about them either. He keeps the focus on what is essential to all of life, the reign of God in our life and in our world. How does Jesus' teachings here help you from not worrying so much? How does being thankful shape your day, your health, and your relationships with others and with God?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, you provide us with all we need, food, water, clothing, and shelter. Help us to acknowledge your goodness and share what we have so that all may live in peace and with a grateful heart. Amen.**

## SERVICE



God's creation provides all we need for daily living, but greed, power, and wars create situations around the world where many people live in serious want and die for lack of food and clean water. As a citizen in a free country, learn about what we can do as a nation and as a church to make a difference for the billions of people who go to bed hungry each night and live with hunger-induced diseases.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Thankfulness is a way of life (Joel 2:21-27). It can be based on our momentary comforts and pleasures. For a Christian, a thankful heart is not based on our possessions and experiences, but on the love and mercy of God shown to us in Jesus. On this day of giving thanks take time to gather with family and friends either before or after the meal to list what God has done for you to give you a thankful heart. Make the list into a prayer by saying: **"Dear God I thank you for . . ."**



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