

Deuteronomy 8: 6-18

⁶Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For 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, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous^[b] snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." ¹⁸But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

John 6:25-35

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which^[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

SERMON "REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS"

SHARING

ANTHEM "Acres Grace" by Peter Amidon

We thank you for this food we share, These gifts we've gathered from the field;
Grains, fruits and greens sustain us here, This bounty nature yields.
Your blessings shower down on us below,
May we use them well; And when our days on earth are past,
Back in your arms we'll dwell.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Litany

Gracious God, God of abundance and bounty, God of tenderness and courage in want,
we offer you thanks:

For the purple-shadowed days of November, for wind and early
dark that draws us to home and church.

We give you thanks.

For peaceful moments of reflection in which we look ahead to
holiday times and seek to keep a true perspective.

We give you thanks.

For the memory of the Pilgrim people and the religious freedom
they sought, even when they could not abide by it themselves, and
for the Native Americans with their generosity and deep love of this
land and the Great Spirit who guides us all.

We give you thanks.

For the gatherings of family and friends in the days to come and for
the expressions of gratitude shared.

We give you thanks.

Tender God, God of compassion and healing, God of home in moments of loss, we bring
before You our intercessions:

For those who have lost family and friends to death and so are celebrating Thanksgiving with the same sense of loss the early Pilgrims felt.

We pray Your grace.

For places around the world where tensions between people cause suffering, or where natural disasters have taken the lives of Your children.

We pray Your grace.

For friends whom we know need a special blessing of healing or hope, which we hold before You in silence.

For these many needs we ask Your mercy.

Gracious God, we place in the hand of Your warm concern our own spirits and souls. Touch each one of us with the encouragement, patience, peacefulness, prayerfulness or strength which we need, for we pray in the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE “Fanfare for Thanksgiving,” L. Stanley Glarum from Psalm 105

O give thanks unto the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name,
call upon his name, call upon His holy name.

Sing unto Him, O sing unto Him, O sing unto Him, O sing.

Glory ye in His holy name, Glory ye in His holy name.

Let the heart of them rejoice, let the heart of them rejoice.

Let them rejoice, let them rejoice, let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord,
that seek the Lord, that seek the Lord.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE