

Thanksgiving Prayer Service

*We come before God with grateful hearts to express our gratitude
for all the blessings and gifts we have been given.*

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: We praise God for the abundant gifts he has bestowed upon us. We celebrate this abundance, and we call all to the table to eat and to be renewed. In brotherhood and sisterhood may we enjoy God's gifts and share them in joy.

May we be grateful each morning for the gift of a new day, and grateful each evening for the good we have received during the day, and for the good we have been able to do.

May we praise God through our giving thanks for his abundant love. May we praise God for offering such love to one another.



READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

(All readings taken from The Inclusive Bible)

Reader 1: Psalm 67

O God, show us kindness and bless us, and make your face smile on us!

For then the earth will acknowledge your ways, and all the nations will know of your power to save.

Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you!

Let the nations shout and sing for joy, for you dispense true justice to the world—you guide the nations of the earth!

Let the peoples shout and sing for joy; let all the peoples praise you!

The land has given its harvest: God, our God, has blessed us.

May God bless us, and may God be revered, even to the ends of the earth!

Reader 2: Matthew 14

When Jesus heard about the beheading, he left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone. The crowds heard of this and followed him from their towns on foot. When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he healed their sick.

As evening drew on, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves."

Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves."

"We have nothing here," they replied, "but five loaves and a couple of fish."

"Bring them here," Jesus said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave it to the people. All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. About five thousand families were fed.



REFLECTION

- How has God shared the gift of abundance with you, your family, and your community?
- What particularly are you thankful for at this time of celebrating and giving thanks?

LITANY OF THANKS

Leader: For the blessing of life, for the gift of each new day,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

Leader: For the food we eat each day,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

Leader: For the home we share with family,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

Leader: For the faith that renews us,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

Leader: For the hope that we have for the human family,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

Leader: For the charity that we are privileged to offer,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

Leader: For the work for justice that we are called to do,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

Leader: For all the graces we have received,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

Leader: For all the good we have enjoyed,

All: Lord of Abundance, we thank you.



PRAYERS OF PETITION AND GRATITUDE

For what else shall we be thankful?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, Creator, we celebrate your overflowing love, and we give thanks to you for all that we have, all that we are. We know abundance because of you. May we offer thanks to you by sharing what you have blessed us with, our talents, our graces, our spiritual as well as material goods. May we live in your light and in your love during this season, and during all the seasons of life. Amen.

