

Thanksgiving Day or Any Time of Thanksgiving

“Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness” (Col 3:15)

The following rite may be used on Thanksgiving Day as a table prayer or at any time when people gather in thanksgiving and joy around a meal. When all have gathered, the leader lights the candle and begins.

LEADER: Christ, our Light, we give you thanks for your goodness.

ALL: You have called us to share your life and the light of glory.

LEADER: When you come again, your glory will be made known.

ALL: When Christ is revealed, we too will be revealed with Christ in glory (Col 3:4).

LEADER: We give thanks for many gifts today, including the great gift of faith and being part of God’s chosen people.

READER 1: Because you are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another—forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

READER 2: Let Christ’s peace reign in your hearts since, as members of one body, you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus our Savior, giving thanks to God through Christ. (Col 3:12-17)

LEADER: Today we give thanks to God for the food we are about to receive, for the friendship of those who have gathered, and for all the gifts bestowed upon us. For the gift of life, for health of mind and body, for people who have guided and loved us, we lift up our hearts and pray,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: For our country and its abundance of gifts, for the right to choose our leaders and our futures, for the freedom to vote, for the right to education, we lift up our hearts and pray,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: For growing up, for maturing age, for the wisdom to interpret meanings in life, for the many communities that sustain our being, we lift up our hearts and we pray,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: For the gift of faith, for the mystery of Jesus Christ who is with us, for the Spirit who guides us, for the community of faith that supports our journeying, we lift up our hearts and we pray,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: For the promise of a better tomorrow, for the fidelity of God who makes promises come true, for the table of the kingdom where all shall be united as one in Christ, we lift up our hearts and we pray,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: For the gifts for which we are most thankful this day:
Each person may name a gift in his/her heart or aloud.

LEADER: For all these gifts, we lift up our hearts and we pray,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: May God bless each of us around this table with peace.

May Jesus Christ bless us with the food that satisfies the heart’s hungers.

May the Spirit bless us with love that leads us toward life forever at the heavenly banquet table.

ALL: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Exchange a sign of peace.

