

WORSHIP SERVICE



# IN Thankfulness AND Praise

A SERVICE FOR  
THANKSGIVING



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## **ABOUT “IN THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE”**

This service for Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to express thankfulness and praise to our God for all his goodness to us. Scripture verses that highlight the richness of God’s gifts support the sermon and children’s sermon that lay out the many blessings afforded to us daily. Traditional Thanksgiving hymns like “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come,” “Now Thank We All Our God,” “We Praise You, O God,” “Praise the Almighty” and “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” allow worshipers to show great gratitude to God.

This service contains: a complete order of service • a sermon • a children’s sermon • prayers • music for the accompanist

Everything you need for the service is contained on digital files with text of the entire service in .rtf (rich text format), newsletter/bulletin notices, hymns, visual media recommendations, contemporary music song suggestions and a PowerPoint document of the service with images and text (along with a copyright release) for use on screens.

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## COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-photo/festive-autumn-decor-pumpkins-berries-leaves-1789720877](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/festive-autumn-decor-pumpkins-berries-leaves-1789720877)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

*Colossians 3:16*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. George's, Windsor 77 77 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home;  
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;  
From the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,  
Give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;  
But the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, to thy final harvest home;  
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, in thy garner to abide;  
Come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home.

- The **Invocation and Opening Psalm 33** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

**P** Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous!

**C** Praise befits the upright.

**P** Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;

**C** make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

**P** Sing to him a new song;

**C** play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

**P** For the word of the Lord is upright,

**C** and all his work is done in faithfulness.

**P** He loves righteousness and justice;

**C** the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

**P** By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,

**C** and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

**P** He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;

**C** he puts the deeps in storehouses.

**P** Let all the earth fear the Lord;

**C** let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

**P** For he spoke, and it came to be;

**C** he commanded, and it stood firm.

**P** The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

**C** he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

**P** The counsel of the Lord stands forever,

**C** the plans of his heart to all generations.

**P** Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,

**C** the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune Kremser 12 11 12 11, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;  
Thro' life's storm and tempest our Guide you have been.  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

- The **Confession and Forgiveness** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** O God of all graciousness, you have poured out blessing upon blessing upon us, yet we in our sinfulness have not always been generous back to you in how we have lived. Instead of being grateful, we have been greedy.

**C** **Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** Instead of being righteous, we have been rebellious.

**C** **Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** Instead of being loving, we have been angry.

**C** **Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** Instead of being content, we have been jealous.

**C** **Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** Instead of being kind, we have been hurtful.

**C** **Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** Instead of being joyful, we have been judgmental.

**C** **Forgive us and free from all our disobedience.**

*(Please observe a time of quiet reflection for self-examination.)*

**P** Give thanks for this good news: your sins are forgiven and you are granted a fresh start. The patterns of your old sinful selves have been replaced by the wonderful ways of Christ, who died yet was raised so that we might live in love for him in joyful response to all he has done.

**C** **We thank you for your forgiveness, O Christ. We sing our praises to you for restoring us. Amen.**

- The **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Nun Danket Alle Gott 67 67 66 66, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
To keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills of this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** Dear Lord Jesus Christ, you have shown us bounty beyond our imagination. Let our gratitude toward you well up from within us and pour out into all that we say and do. Out of the richness of your love, you have kept us fed and well-nourished, clothed and well-protected. strengthened and supported. May our devotion to you be a testament to your care for us and may others see the beauty of your generosity revealed in and through us. Instill in us a desire to continue to give you praise and glory for the many people, places and things that bring us joy. Amen.

- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*(Needed: a picture of a tambourine)*

**P** Happy Thanksgiving, boys and girls! I'm so happy to have you here with me. What is this a picture of? (*Hold up the tambourine picture and allow the children to respond.*) That's right! It is called a tambourine. We read in the Bible that Moses' sister Miriam used a tambourine to celebrate when God safely brought the Israelites across the Red Sea on dry ground to escape the Egyptians. Miriam danced around playing the tambourine and people followed her, the Bible tells us.

Miriam gives us a good example of what it means to be filled with thankfulness and praise to God for all he has done for us. Miriam thanked God for triumphing over the horse and rider who were chasing them into the sea. We have specific things that we are thankful to God for too. For God has released us from our slavery to sin. Repeat after me: "Praise God!" (Praise God!) God has kept us safe when trouble threatened to wash us away. Repeat after me: "Praise God." (Praise God!) God keeps us solid in our faith. Repeat after me: "Praise God!" (Praise God!) God has given us clothes to wear and food to eat. Repeat after me: "Praise God!" (Praise God!) Give gives us a place to live and people who love us. Repeat after me: "Praise God!" (Praise God!)

Miriam rejoiced by dancing around, and we can move our bodies around in thanksgiving for what God has done for us. Let's stand up and raise our arms up in the air. (*Allow the children to raise their arms.*) Now say after me: "We thank the Lord above!" (We thank the Lord



above!) Now let's march in place. (*Allow the children to march in place.*) Now say after me: "We thank the Lord for walking with us every day!" (We thank the Lord for walking with us every day!) We raise our heads to heaven. (*Allow the children to raise their heads to heaven.*) Now say after me: "Thank the Lord for looking out for us!" (We thank the Lord for looking out for us!) We cross our arms over our chests with each hand over the opposite shoulder. (*Allow the children to cross their arms over their chests.*) Now say after me: "We thank the Lord for loving us!" (We thank the Lord for loving us!)

Good job! We can do even more things to show people that we are filled with thankfulness and praise to our God for everything. We can do things like help our moms and dads clean the house. We can set the table for Thanksgiving dinner and we can make visitors feel welcome when they come to the door. Remember that Jesus is a guest at your Thanksgiving table, too. Make him feel welcome by praying to him before you eat. Thanksgiving is a good day to remind us that every day is a day to give thanks. All that you say and do should show that. Let us pray:

Dear God, thank you for Thanksgiving Day. Let it be a day filled with all sorts of rejoicing in you. Help us to be grateful for all that you give us. Amen.

- **The Old Testament Reading**, Exodus 15:1-21, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a

stone, till your people, O Lord, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased. You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. The Lord will reign forever and ever.” For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 19:28-40, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Lobt Gott Den Herren, Ihr 87 87 887, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Sing praise to God, the highest good, the author of creation,  
 The God of love who understood our need for his salvation.  
 With healing balm our souls he fills and ev'ry faithless murmur stills:  
 To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty pow'r has made, in mercy he is keeping.  
 By morning glow or evening shade his eye is never sleeping.  
 Within the kingdom of his might all things are just and good and right:  
 To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.  
 Our Savior saw our helplessness and came with peace to cheer us.  
 For this we thank and praise the Lord, who is by one and all adored:  
 To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake his flock, his chosen generation;  
 He is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation.  
 As with a mother's tender hand, he leads his own, his chosen band:  
 To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ's holy name, give God the praise and glory.  
 Let all who know his pow'r proclaim aloud the wondrous story.  
 Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, for God is God, and he alone:  
 To God all praise and glory!

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ Grace, mercy and peace be to you as we celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday. One of the main reasons we come to this house of God on a regular basis is to give thanks, and on this day we make thanksgiving to our God our first priority. But that begs the question, shouldn't we make thanksgiving to our God our top priority every day?

The Bible reminds us, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). But that is easier said than done when the kids are sick, the car breaks down, and the furnace needs replacing. We can quickly switch from thanking to complaining. Life can be hard, there is no denying that. And giving thanks in hard times is not a denial or disregard of the troubles of life. No one knows that better than St. Paul who endured great hardship and did not discount how tough those hardships were, but still was able to give