



It is good to
give thanks
to the Lord

a service for thanksgiving

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Index

Notes5
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices6
Order of Service.....7-14
Complete Script For Leaders..... 15-28
Music Guide29-40

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About This Service

This service for Thanksgiving uses passages from Psalm 92 to remind us that it is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the year. Through word and song, this service will serve as a way to acknowledge that living a life of gratitude to God is good for us physically, mentally and spiritually. So let us celebrate the goodness of God.

This service contains: a complete order of service, a sermon, a children's sermon, prayers, hymns, music for the accompanist, newsletter/bulletin notices, visual media recommendations, contemporary music song suggestions, text of the entire worship service in .pdf (portable document format) and .rtf (rich text format) and PowerPoint documents of the service with images and text (along with a copyright release) for use on screens.

collections you may have are all good things from God to be thankful for. But there is one thing that we should be thankful for about everything else. Can you think of what the one very good thing is? *(Allow the children to respond.)* The very good thing in our lives is our God. He is good because he created us and is all-knowing and all-powerful. He is good because he loves us and sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin, death and the devil by dying on the cross and rising to life again so that we have place in heaven with him. Our God is good because he fills us with his Holy Spirit, who keeps us in the faith and continues to remind us that we are children of God forevermore.

There is a little song that reminds us of God's goodness. It goes like this: "God is so good. God is so good. God is so good. He's so good to me." Can you sing this or say this with me? *(Allow the children to sing or say these words with you.)* Now listen to the rest of the verses of this song and sing or say the with me. The other verses go like this: "He cares for me. He cares for me. He cares for me. He's so good to me." *(Repeat singing or saying this verse with the children.)* "God answers prayer. God answers prayer. God answers prayer. He's so good to me." *(Repeat singing or saying this verse with the children.)* "I praise his name. I praise his name. I praise his name. He's so good to me." *(Repeat singing or saying this verse with the children.)* Good job! Now let us pray:

Thank you, God, for all your goodness. Help us to give thanks to you every day of our lives, not just on Thanksgiving. And help us to have a good day today because of you. Amen.

- **The Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 55:1-13, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me

empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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

☐ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 12:13-21, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

- 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!

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:

P Grace, mercy and peace to you on this Thanksgiving. When we think of Thanksgiving Day, we like to think of all the good food and good times with family and friends. And those are good things to remember. But it's good for us on this holiday to think more broadly about the whole world and everything in it. And it makes us think more deeply about our relationship with God in all of this.

Many years back Martha Stewart would say, "It's a good thing" when it came to home decor, furniture and food she was selling, making or designing. The Campbell's Soup Company continues to say that their products are "M'm, m'm, good." And we often find ourselves saying, "I'm good" or "That's good" or "It's all good" when we are in conversations with people.

This begs the question, "What is good?" In the account of creation, at the end of each day, the Bible declares that God saw that the light was good. He saw that the land and the sea, the plants and the trees, the sun and the moon, the animals, birds and fish were good. Then he saw that the human beings he created were very good. In this sense, we come to understand that the things that are good are those things that God has created and blessed and things that are capable of doing and being what they was designed for.