



# THANKFUL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Charles Dickens said that we are somewhat mixed up here in America. Instead of having just one Thanksgiving Day each year, we should have 364. "Use that one day just for complaining and griping," he said. "Use the other 364 days to thank God each day for the many blessings he has showered upon you."

STAND

## HYMN: WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR BLESSINGS



1 We thank you for your bless - ings, Al - ight - y  
2 This day of great thanks - giv - ing We count them  
3 But best of all your bless - ings, The rain - bow



Lord, our King; We thank you for the har - vests,  
one by one: Our free and fruit - ful coun - try,  
of your love, Are all the man - y mer - cies



Yes, Lord, for ev - 'ry - thing: For flow'rs that bloom in  
The great things you have done, Our fam - i - ly, our  
Your Word brings from a - bove. Our life now has full



spring - time, For rip - 'ning fruit and grain, For  
loved ones, The guard - ian an - gels' care, Our  
mean - ing— Christ Je - sus is our God! Thanks -



all the pre - cious sun - shine, And for the gen - tle rain.  
ver - y self and heart - beat—Lord, hear our thank - ful prayer!  
giv - ing shall be liv - ing The way the Sav - ior trod.

Text: Unknown, alt.

Tune: ELLACOMBE (76 76 D) *Gesang-Buch . . . der Herzogl . . . Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784, alt.*

**M:** We give thanks to God in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **CONFESSION OF SINS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS**

**M:** As we this day offer our thanksgiving and praise, let us reflect upon our many sins and confess them before our God and LORD, asking Him to forgive us for the sake of Jesus, His Son:

**C:** **“Lord, the eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”**

**M:** We come before You to confess our sins, including our ingratitude and lack of appreciation for all the blessings You have given us.

**C:** **We confess to You, O Lord, that we have not given You thanks for all Your generous blessings; nor have we shown gratitude or appreciation, but too often we have grumbled and complained. For these sins and all our other wicked thoughts, words, and actions, we deserve to be punished. But we appeal to Your mercy and ask You to forgive us for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

**M:** The LORD, our gracious Father has forgiven all our sins through the suffering and death of His one and only Son, Jesus; and with His resurrection from the dead has given us the hope of everlasting life. God in His Word has declared,

**C:** **“the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin.”**

**M:** He also assures us:

**C:** **“You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”**

**M:** Therefore, give thanks to God for our salvation! You are forgiven. Go in peace.

**C:** **Amen**

## BE THANKFUL DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

*Thank God for his gift of hope.*

### LUKE 1:39-55

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
even as he said to our fathers."

***HYMN OF THANKS: OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL***

***327 vv1,4***

## **BE THANKFUL DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

*Thank God for his gift of joy.*

### **LUKE 2:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

<b><i>HYMN OF THANKS: JOY TO THE WORLD</i></b>
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<b><i>353 vv1,2</i></b>
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## **BE THANKFUL DURING THE EPIPHANY SEASON**

*Thank God for making himself known to us.*

### **JOHN 1:1-5,10-17**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' " <sup>16</sup> From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

## **BE THANKFUL DURING THE LENTEN SEASON**

*Thank God for uniting us, through his death, to himself and his church.*

### **1 CORINTHIANS 10:16,17**

<sup>16</sup>Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

***HYMN OF THANKS: IT WAS A DARK AND DISMAL NIGHT***

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## **BE THANKFUL DURING THE EASTER SEASON**

*Thank God for our new birth.*

### **1 PETER 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

***HYMN OF THANKS: WITH HIGH DELIGHT LET US UNITE***

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## RESPONSIVE CREED

M: I believe that God created me and all that exists,

**C: and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.**

M: And I believe that God still preserves me

**C: by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life.**

M: God also preserves me by defending me against all danger,

**C: and guarding and protecting me from all evil.**

M: All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven,

**C: and not because I have earned or deserved it.**

M: For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

**C: This is most certainly true.**

M: I believe that Jesus Christ,

**C: true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

M: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature,

**C: purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil,**

M: not with gold or silver,

**C: but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

M: All this he did that I should be his own,

**C: and live under him in his kingdom,**

M: and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness,

**C: just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

M: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

**C: But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

M: In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

**C: In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.**

M: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead,

**C: and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- M: Father in heaven, we give you thanks. You gave us life and formed our bodies in the womb. You have preserved us over the years by providing for all our needs. You control the weather, ensuring ample supplies of food.
- C: You give us family and friends. You keep our society stable through the various branches of our government. You protect and defend us day after day. Each of us offers private thanks for your many gifts.**

### *Silent prayer*

- M: Jesus, we give you thanks. True God from eternity, you put aside your heavenly glory to become human like us. You lived the kind of life we should, following perfectly all the commandments. You died the kind of death we should, receiving the total and just punishment for our sin.
- C: What love you have shown us! We thank you for reconciling us to your Father through your holy, precious blood. We praise you for rising from the dead. We exalt you for winning for us the gift of eternal life. Each of us offers private thanks for your saving works.**

### *Silent prayer*

- M: Holy Spirit, we give you thanks. By our own thinking and choosing we cannot believe in Jesus Christ or come to him. By your powerful means of grace you called us to faith, revealing to us God's great love in Christ.
- C: We praise you for the Holy Scriptures, inspired by you. We thank you for the sacraments. Through these means of grace, you begin and preserve faith in Christ.**
- M: You move and lead us to live in a sanctified way. We exalt you for sanctifying us to serve the Lord and our neighbor.
- C: You have guarded and defended the Christian church through the ages. We thank you for your many blessings to our congregation in the past year. Each of us offers private thanks for your many blessings.**

### *Silent Prayer*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BE THANKFUL DURING THE PENTECOST SEASON**

*Thank God for the gifts of the Spirit.*

### **GALATIANS 5:16-25**

<sup>16</sup> So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. <sup>17</sup> For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

***HYMN OF THANKS: FOR THE FRUITS OF HIS CREATION***

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## BE THANKFUL DURING THE END TIME SEASON

*Thank God for our white robes.*

### REVELATION 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:

“Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

<sup>14</sup> I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. <sup>16</sup> Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN OF THANKS: NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD**

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*Happy Thanksgiving!*