



Liturgical resources for Thanksgiving
by Catherine E. Schuyler
First used at Duluth Congregational Church
From 1 Chronicles 16

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come before him.**

Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!'

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever.

INVOCATION (Unison)

Love, life, joy, hope, turkey, cranberries, pie, friends – all these are from you, O God, and we give you thanks from the depths of our hearts. Let your Spirit be among us this morning as we sing and praise your name. Mold us into grateful people, ready to love others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

LITANY OF THANKS

Leader: Gracious and holy God, Sovereign of the Universe, we
are yours, creatures of your wisdom and love; our
care and sustenance is in your hands.

Left side: We thank you for your constant presence in our lives, for
gathering us as your people,

Right side: for calling us to this place on this day
to sing your praise and to tell of your goodness.

Leader: We thank you, O Lord, for the beauty of our world,

Women: for the Lake, for the sky, for the hills;
for the birds and their songs,

Men: for deer and moose and the forests in which they live;
for walleye and pike and the myriad lakes which surround us in beauty;

Children: for the colors of the harvest – orange pumpkins,
golden squash, crimson apples, purple cabbage.

Leader: We thank you, God, for the things that bring us joy,

Musicians: for music and singing,

Grandparents: for stories and storytellers,

Parents: for the laughter of children,

Children: for games and toys and fun,

Friends: for the presence around us of people we love. Leader:

We thank you, God, for life itself,

Left side: for waking us up this morning, and bringing us here together, Right

side: for your constant providence and safe-keeping,

Left side: for opportunities to care for one another,

Right side: for those who remember us and sustain us with love in difficult times.

Leader: We express our thanks in many and varied ways. Left

side: We offer our thanks in prayers

Right side: We offer our thanks in song

Left side: We offer our thanks by gathering in love Right

side: We offer our thanks by feeding the hungry Left

side: We offer our thanks by housing the poor.

Right side: We offer our thanks by forgiving those who hurt us.

Left side: Give us thankful hearts, O Lord, today and all days.

Right side: Give us courage to live your love in all we do.

All: We give you all our thanks and praise, in Christ's holy name. Amen.

A Thanksgiving Proclamation by Catherine E. Schuyler

Whereas we have been blessed by God with a land of plenty which has brought forth great bounty – apples, brussel sprouts, carrots, maple syrup, sage and thyme, yellow squash and orange pumpkins; and

Whereas we enjoy a city of beauty next to a lake of majesty, where deer and hawks and moose and squirrels of many colors share with us the woods and waters that refresh our souls; and

Whereas we have been blessed by people in our lives who care: friends and family who share our daily lives; church members who pray for us, for loved ones, and for our world with us; artists and workers and merchants and teachers who inspire us and contribute to our community; people who serve the public good throughout the world; and

Whereas we live in a nation that professes freedom and justice for all, where our vote and our voices are taken seriously, and where we are encouraged to act to keep the government accountable; and

Whereas we are loved deeply and completely by the Lord our God, who has redeemed us through our Savior, Jesus Christ, who continues to fill us with power through the Holy Spirit, and who calls us to come together to worship;

Therefore, be it resolved, that we should offer our thanksgiving and praise to God for all good gifts with shouts and songs of joy, with feasts of celebration and gracious hospitality, and with care and compassion to all of our neighbors, welcoming all in peace and love.

Amen.

Thanksgiving Prayer

O Ever-Giving and Eternally Gracious God,

We, the recipients of your generosity have at last found our voice.

Hidden beyond our grudges and grappling for power, we have discovered your gift of love.

Concealed behind our misplaced priorities and metered pleasantries, we have realized the profound well-spring of mercy that you have poured out for us.

Pushed out of view as we promote self and self-interest, we have stumbled upon the truth of your compassion.

And once again we turn. We turn away from the meagerness of our illusory independence and recognize the reality of your blessing.

In the face of that abundance, our souls, our spirits, our tongues can no longer be silent.

We, like King David who could not continue to believe that he completely controlled his destiny and was compelled to sing psalms in response to your wisdom, goodness, and chastisement,

We, like those who arrived on the shores of our land at Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay, guided through the gales and the currents by your direction and offered their praise and purpose to you,

We, like those who, throughout time, have acknowledged the presence of your hand in the navigation of our pilgrimage through life, activate our faith in the proclamation of Thanksgiving.

With appreciation, we raise our prayers, our songs, our shouts to you, celebrating that our journey is authorized, affirmed, and accompanied by you. In this Thanksgiving season, we open our hearts and our lips with sincere gratitude to you. As we receive from you our plentitude of daily bread, we can reply with nothing less.

In Christ Jesus' name we profess with all of our being our thankfulness. Amen.

-Rev. Dr. Charles A. Packer, Senior Minister,
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Chaplain-Director, Congregational Society of Classical Retreat Guides