

NOVEMBER 28, 2024
THANKSGIVING DAY



Do not worry, give thanks to God.

THANKSGIVING DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Thanksgiving Day observances.

Thursday	Matthew 6:25-33	Do not worry
	Joel 2:21-27	God's response and promise
	1 Timothy 2:1-7	How to pray
	Psalms 126	A harvest of joy

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Matthew 6:25 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day:

Almighty and merciful God, you have done great things for us. We thank you for your love and mercy that is renewed each day through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your constant love for us and for all that you create. Give us a joyful heart filled with thanksgiving through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a thankful heart.



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HYMN FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

Praise and Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING DAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are you thankful for?
- How do you show thankfulness for God's goodness and mercy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 6:25-33.

This reading is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It is his opening declaration of the kingdom of God that he brings. It is a message full of good news that is wrapped in the theme: "Do not worry." Why not worry? Because we have the God who cares for all that God has created, including the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. Instead of worrying, our life's focus needs to be planted in God's reign and righteousness. Righteousness is not simply a moral category. God's righteousness is a creative and redeeming power to establish and maintain a relationship to us and to all that God has created. It is a life-giving power that brings judgment to all that destroys life so that justice and mercy may have the last word. God's kingdom provides what is needed. In the midst of all our woes and fears, there is reason for hope and even thanksgiving because we have the God in Christ who will not let us go and who claims us with steadfast love and faithfulness.

Discuss: How does trusting in God's care for you give you peace and a thankful heart?

Pray: **Loving God, you who care for the birds of the air and the lilies of the valley, give us thankful hearts that rest in your care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Thanksgiving Day Bible Readings and theme for this day, how can you express thankfulness to someone this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Thankfulness is a way of life (Joel 2:21-27). It can be based on our momentary comforts and pleasures. For a Christian, a thankful heart is not based on our possessions or social standing in life, but on the love and mercy of God shown to us in Jesus. On this day of giving thanks, take time to think or talk about what God has done for you to give you a thankful heart. Write each thought on a piece of paper.

Pray: **Gracious God thank you for [read list]. Thank you for blessing us with your goodness each day. Help us to respond with a generous heart. Amen.**



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