

Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Opening Prayer

We praise God for the abundant gifts he has bestowed upon us. We celebrate this abundance, and we call all to the table to eat and to be renewed. In brotherhood and sisterhood may we enjoy God's gifts and share them in joy.

May we be grateful each morning for the gift of a new day, and grateful each evening for the good we have received during the day, and for the good we have been able to do.

May we praise God through our giving thanks for his abundant love. May we praise God for offering such love to one another.

Readings from Scripture:

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us; may God's face shine upon us.

So shall your rule be known upon the earth, your saving power among all the nations. May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!

May the nations be glad and shout for joy; for you govern the peoples justly, you guide the nations upon the earth.

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

May God bless us still; may the ends of the earth may revere our God.

Matthew 14

When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

(Jesus) said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves."

But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

We come before
God with
grateful hearts to
express our
gratitude for all
the blessings and
gifts we have
been given.



Reflection

- How has God shared the gift of abundance with you, your family and your community?
- What particularly are you thankful for at this time of celebrating and giving thanks?

Litany of Thanks

For the blessing of life, for the gift of each new day,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the food we eat each day,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the home we share with family,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the faith that renews us,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

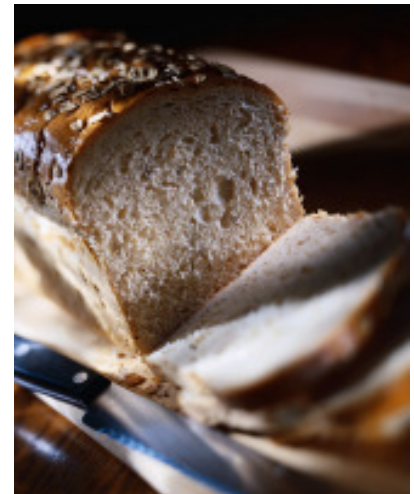
For the hope that we have for the human family,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the charity that we are privileged to offer,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the work for justice that we are called to do,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For all the graces we have received,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For all the good we have enjoyed,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.



Prayers of Petition and Gratitude:

For what else shall we be thankful for?

Closing Prayer

God, Creator, we celebrate your overflowing love, and we give thanks to you for all that we have, all that we are. We know abundance because of you. May we offer thanks to you by sharing what you have blessed us with, our talents, our graces, our spiritual as well as material goods. May we live in your light and in your love during this season, and during all the seasons of life. Amen.

