

The Eve of our National Day of Thanksgiving – 2024

Wednesday, 11/27 at 7 PM

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Text: LSB 806; 2 Corinthians 9:15; 12:9-10; 8:9 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Tomorrow is our **National Day of Thanksgiving** – to remember God’s past and present blessings and give Him thanks!

This is the beginning of George Washington’s Thanksgiving Proclamation made on **October 3, 1789**: Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, [and] to be grateful for his benefits... I “recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God...”¹ We used to be a thankful nation. May the LORD enable us to see His blessings and move us to give Him thanks!

We now turn our attention to the hymn, **Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**:

1. **Give Thanks:** **Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.** // Those words are based on **2 Corinthians 9:15** “Thanks be to God for His

¹ <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-04-02-0091>

indescribable gift!" // God has given us countless gifts, BUT the gift that is *BY FAR* the **GREATEST GIFT** is *the gift of His Son, who is Jesus, the Christ*:

- a. A naked man needs clothes.
- b. A hungry man needs food.
- c. A fallen man needs the Savior: Not all are naked and hungry, *but all are fallen*, so this is **GREAT NEWS: John 3:16** "...God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

2. **How Can the Weak Say – I am Strong?** **And now let the weak say, "I am strong," [WHY?] Because of what the Lord has done for us.** // Those words are based on **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**. When Paul was suffering with "a thorn in the flesh," Jesus said to Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." [Then Paul commented:] "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**" // Do you get it?

- a. When we think we are strong – *we are trusting in ourselves*. Therefore, it's better to know we are weak AND TRUST IN JESUS, *because then we will be strong through Him!*
- b. Paul wrote: **Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me."

3. **How Can the Poor Say – I am Rich?** **Let the poor say, “I am rich,”** [WHY?] **Because of what the Lord has done for us.** // Those words are based on **2 Corinthians 8:9** “...you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.” // Think about that:

- a. Jesus loves us **SO MUCH** that He **↓**left the glory of heaven, **↓**put on human flesh, and **↓**lived a sinless life – *as our sinless substitute!*
- b. And then, **during His final 24 hours**, He permitted Himself to be **†**arrested, **†**tried, **†**condemned, **†**beaten, and **†**crucified.
- c. And then, **when His saving work was finished**, **➡**He laid down His life! Jesus became a condemned and crucified criminal for us, *so that we could forever enjoy the riches of heaven!*

Conclusion: **Give thanks, give thanks.** // Yes, moment-by-moment, day-by-day, let us keep **➡**expressing our thanks to our GREAT GOD and **➡**living lives of thanksgiving!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **You** have taken away our sins, **You** make us strong, and **You** have promised us eternal riches, so, let us and all believers **KEEP GIVING YOU THANKS!**

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