Golden Text
Revelation 11:17

. . . We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Responsive Reading
Psalms 146:1, 2, 5–9 (to :), 10; 95:2; I Chronicles 29:11–13

1 Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul. 2 While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

5 Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God: 6 Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever: 7 Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners: 8 The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous: 9 The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieth the fatherless and widow: 10 The Lord shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

11 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.
1 | Psalms 69:30

30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

2 | Psalms 47:7 God

7 God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

3 | Jeremiah 9:23, 24

23 Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

4 | Hebrews 8:10 this

10 this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

5 | Nehemiah 8:1 all, 3, 6, 10, 12

1 all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. 3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength. 12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

You can find this phrase in Jeremiah 31:34.

This phrase is from Matthew 10:26.

THIS STORY TAKES place after the Babylonian captivity (or exile), when the Jews are returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and resettle there. During their captivity, many Jews had been influenced by other religions and were not following the teachings of the Torah (the Book of Moses or the first five books of the Bible). Ezra, whose name means “help,” was a Jewish scribe and priest who returned from Babylon to help reintroduce biblical teachings to the people.
Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

Man is properly self-governed only when he is guided rightly and governed by his Maker, divine Truth and Love.

Prayer cannot change the unalterable Truth, nor can prayer alone give us an understanding of Truth; but prayer, coupled with a fervent desire to know and do the will of God, will bring us into all Truth.

It is neither Science nor Truth which acts through blind belief, nor is it the human understanding of the divine healing Principle as manifested in Jesus, whose humble prayers were deep and conscientious protests of Truth, — of man's likeness to God and of man's unity with Truth and Love.

The higher nature of man is not governed by the lower; if it were, the order of wisdom would be reversed. Our false views of life hide eternal harmony, and produce the ills of which we complain.

Meekness and charity have divine authority.

The impersonation of the spiritual idea had a brief history in the earthly life of our Master; but "of his kingdom there shall be no end," for Christ, God's idea, will eventually rule all nations and peoples — imperatively, absolutely, finally — with divine Science.

Let us rejoice that we are subject to the divine "powers that be."

You can find this phrase in Luke 1:33.

This phrase comes from Romans 13:1.
11 | II Corinthians 9:15

15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

12 | Zechariah 2:13

13 Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

13 | Psalms 145:9, 10, 12, 14, 21

9 The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. 10 All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. 12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. 14 The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. 21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

14 | Luke 4:14, 15

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. 15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

15 | Luke 7:1, 11–16

1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. 11 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. 12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. 16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

14 The Lord lifts the fallen and those bent beneath their loads.

Psalms 145:14—Living Bible

Jesus is recorded as saying this in Luke 17:21.

This statement can be found in John 8:51.

... Truth and Love reign in the real man, showing that man in God's image is unfallen and eternal.

Science and Health, p. 476
15 Ye are blessed of the Lord which made heaven and earth.

17 Behold your God! Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

7 ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: 8 Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. 9 Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this? 10 In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

12 Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

19 The Revelator tells us of “a new heaven and a new earth.” Have you ever pictured this heaven and earth, inhabited by beings under the control of supreme wisdom?

Mind, supreme over all its formations and governing them all, is the central sun of its own systems of ideas, the life and light of all its own vast creation; and man is tributary to divine Mind.

18 Tenderness accompanies all the might imparted by Spirit. All of God's creatures, moving in the harmony of Science, are harm- less, useful, indestructible.

Suns and planets teach grand lessons. The stars make night beautiful, and the leaflet turns naturally towards the light. In the order of Science, in which the Principle is above what it reflects, all is one grand concord.

When we learn the way in Christian Science and recognize man’s spiritual being, we shall behold and understand God's creation, — all the glories of earth and heaven and man.

How can your thanks for God shine today?
A couple of years ago I became ill the day before Thanksgiving. My wife and I had already volunteered to host an extended family dinner for the holiday. After much prayer, I hadn’t yet improved and unfortunately felt worse.

I told my wife I would stay in the bedroom the next day while our family enjoyed the Thanksgiving meal. I added that there was no way I would be going to the Thanksgiving service at our branch Church of Christ, Scientist, in the morning. Besides, I said, I had nothing to be grateful for.

Early the next morning, I received a phone call from a church member informing me that she was bringing a guest to the Thanksgiving service. The guest was someone I had known while growing up, and he was looking forward to seeing me. I told the church member that I was not feeling well, and that I doubted I would be attending church that day. Instead of the church member saying that she was sorry, or that she hoped I would get well, she said, “Healing is just around the corner.”

Within seconds of hanging up, I had a thought come to me that it would be a loving act for me to go to the service to welcome my childhood friend to our church, and that I could not be punished for doing that. According to the law of divine Love, I could not be made to suffer for a selfless act of love—for reflecting and expressing divine Love. I decided to go to the Thanksgiving service.

I entered church still not feeling well, and to be honest, I sat through the readings from the Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, without a grain of gratitude in my thought. But then the testimonies began. The first person that stood up talked about the power of gratitude to lift us above the petty concerns of self and personal sense. I doubted I would be attending church that day. Instead of the church member saying that she was sorry, or that she hoped I would get well, she said, “Healing is just around the corner.”

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Next a young man got up to express his gratitude for his successful recovery from drug addiction. Knowing this young man and his journey, I felt genuine gratitude for his willingness to share his story of courage and healing.

Then a young woman stood up and told about how she and her family had arrived in town recently, not knowing anyone. They had needed a home, schools for their children, and jobs. Her humble gratitude for how God’s love had cared for and sustained her family filled me with joy.

I did not stand to give thanks myself, but listening to other members of the congregation express their gratitude for God’s goodness was enough to change me. Like the warmth of the sunshine slowly thawing a frozen river, the sharing in church that day caused the ingratitude within my thought to crack. I turned away from focusing on myself and personal sense and was lifted up to an awareness of God’s love and power governing.

After the service, I met my childhood friend, and we reminisced about old experiences. His wife had recently passed on, but he was apparently buoyed by the Thanksgiving service, because he began to list the things he was grateful for. I was touched by his sense of gratitude.

We said our goodbyes, and I walked out of church completely healed. I went home to a house full of family, ate heartily, and entertained my guests, while feeling a sublime gratitude in my heart for the power of divine Love that had dissolved the illness I had suffered from.

Through the grace of the Thanksgiving service, my thought had been opened to the reality of God’s abundant blessings, simply by listening to other people’s gratitude. This revelation transformed me and brought a remarkable and speedy release, for which I am grateful.