Thanksgiving

Golden Text
Revelation 11:17 We . . . 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; 1 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.
30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

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

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.

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 mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

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. 2 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. 3 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. 4 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. 5 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.
6 | Psalms 20:7

7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

7 | Psalms 22:28

28 the kingdom is the Lord’s: and he is the governor among the nations.

8 | Psalms 67:3, 4

3 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. 4 O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

9 | 1 Timothy 2:1–5, 8

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

10 | Psalms 21:1, 13

1 The king shall joy in thy strength, O Lord; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! 13 Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

How can you express gratitude for divine authority today?

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You can find this phrase in Luke 1:33.

This phrase comes from Romans 13:1.
When speaking of God's children, not the children of men, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you; that is, Truth and Love reign in the real man, showing that man in God's image is unfallen and eternal.

The evidence of the physical senses often reverses the real Science of being, and so creates a reign of discord, — assigning seeming power to sin, sickness, and death; but the great facts of Life, rightly understood, defeat this triad of errors, contradict their false witnesses, and reveal the kingdom of heaven, — the actual reign of harmony on earth.

Man's privilege at this supreme moment is to prove the words of our Master: "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death." To divest thought of false trusts and material evidences in order that the spiritual facts of being may appear, — this is the great attainment by means of which we shall sweep away the false and give place to the true.

Like the great Exemplar, the healer should speak to disease as one having authority over it, leaving Soul to master the false evidences of the corporeal senses and to assert its claims over mortality and disease.

Glory be to God, and peace to the struggling hearts! Christ hath rolled away the stone from the door of human hope and faith, and through the revelation and demonstration of life in God, hath elevated them to possible at-one-ment with the spiritual idea of man and his divine Principle, Love.

Have you ever had an experience so awe-inspiring that words couldn't fully describe it? That's what the term "unspeakable" means here—God's gifts simply can't be expressed in words alone!

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

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

This statement can be found in John 8:51.
15 Ye are blessed of the Lord which made heaven and earth.

17 | Isaiah 40:9 Behold, 12

9 Behold your God!
12 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?

18 | Job 12:7–10 ask

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.

19 | Isaiah 11:9

9 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.

20 | Revelation 7:12 Blessing

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

21 | 514:18–19, 28–30

Tenderness accompanies all the might imparted by Spirit.

22 | 240:7–11

Suns and planets teach grand lessons.

23 | 264:28

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.

24 | 521:5–6

All that is made is
6 the work of God, and all is good.
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.
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