

A Family Thanksgiving

The purpose of a Christian thanksgiving is not just to identify what we are thankful FOR, but TO WHOM we give thanks. This Thanksgiving Devotion is provided so that we may offer up thanks to the One who has made us, blessed us with life, called us to faith in Christ, and promised us the treasures of eternal life.

You may begin with a hymn if you wish, and as you wish. You may sing it, or perhaps the host will read the verses, and everyone chime in on the last line.

463

For the Beauty of the Earth

77 77 77

F. S. Pierpont, 1835-1917, *alt.*

FRED TIL BOD
L. M. Lindeman, 1812-87

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child;
4. For Thy Church that ev - er - more Lifts her ho - ly hands a - bove,

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon and stars of light:
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, Plea - sures pure and un - de - filed:
Off - 'ring up on ev - 'ry shore Her pure sac - ri - fice of love:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Americans aren't the first to think up the idea of a thanksgiving celebration, of course. Giving thanks has always been a big part of worship. In fact, we can go back almost 3000 years to the prophet David and this well-known Psalm, #145. After reading the psalm you may close with a prayer.

Psalm 145

PRAISING GOD'S GREATNESS

A hymn of David.

¹ I exalt you, my God the King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
² I will bless you every day;
I will praise your name forever and ever.
³ The LORD is great and is highly praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
⁴ One generation will declare your works to
the next
and will proclaim your mighty acts.
⁵ I will speak of your splendor and glorious
majesty
and your wondrous works.
⁶ They will proclaim the power of your awe-
inspiring acts,
and I will declare your greatness.
⁷ They will give a testimony of your great
goodness
and will joyfully sing of your righteousness.
⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and great in faithful love.
⁹ The LORD is good to everyone;
his compassion rests on all he has made.
¹⁰ All you have made will thank you, LORD;
the faithful will bless you.
¹¹ They will speak of the glory of your
kingdom
and will declare your might,

¹² informing all people of your mighty acts
and of the glorious splendor of your
kingdom.
¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule is for all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words
and gracious in all his actions.
¹⁴ The LORD helps all who fall;
he raises up all who are oppressed.
¹⁵ All eyes look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper
time.
¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all his acts.
¹⁸ The LORD is near all who call out to him,
all who call out to him with integrity.
¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear
him;
he hears their cry for help and saves them.
²⁰ The LORD guards all those who love him,
but he destroys all the wicked.
²¹ My mouth will declare the LORD's praise;
let every living thing
bless his holy name forever and ever.

PRAYER:

Gracious Father in heaven, we give thanks to you for all the mercies you have given to us, for life and health and strength and for the forgiveness of our sins through Jesus, our Savior. We praise you for your goodness and generosity to us. We remember the good things in life that come from you, such as family, friends, love, joy, peace, and also the good things to each. Fill our hearts by your holy word with the constant assurance of your goodness, so that ours will be grateful hearts, grateful to you, the true and living God, now and forever. AMEN.