

NOVEMBER 28, 2019
THANKSGIVING DAY



God's peace guards your hearts and minds.

THANKSGIVING DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Thanksgiving Day celebrations.

Thursday	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Rejoice in what God has given
	Psalms 100	Make a joyful noise
	Philippians 4:4-9	Pray with thanksgiving
	John 6:25-35	Jesus is the bread of life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day:

God of grace and mercy, help us to be aware of your goodness and presence in our lives that we may have a heart of thanksgiving, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, bless this food and grant that we may be thankful for your mercies; teach us to know by whom we're fed; bless us with Christ, the living bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the peace of God that passes all human understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)



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HYMN FOR THANKSGIVING

DAY

God of the Sparrow

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you worry about something, how do you calm yourself?
- Name or think of something you are thankful for. How do you show your thanks?
- What does "the peace of God which surpasses all understanding" mean to you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Philippians 4:4-9.

There seems to be an inverse equation: the more we have, the less happy or thankful we are. When people think about their own wealth, they can almost always think of someone with more. Our source of thanksgiving is not our assets or personal security. It's God. Placing our wants and needs before God in a spirit of thanksgiving separates us from those who pursue their wants and needs with more and more lust, greed, and personal power. A thankful heart believes that all real gifts come from God and all real joy comes from knowing the gift giver. Whatever our wants, whatever our disappointments, whatever our worries and fears, we have a God who knows it all and gives us "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (v. 7). It is a peace that knows the peacemaker, the thirst quencher, the hunger filler, the anxiety solver, the forgiveness giver, wound-healer, Christ Jesus. Think for a moment about what is getting in the way of the peace that passes all human understanding. Offer those concerns as supplications (humble requests) to God that you may experience a life that knows what is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise (v. 8).

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



Most of us are blessed with lots to eat on this Thanksgiving Day but for those who are hungry, it is not easy to think about anything else. God's gift of manna fed the Israelites in the wilderness. Jesus fed the 5,000 from five barley loaves and two fish. In John 6:35, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." How can you help the hungry in your community so that they experience the true bread of life?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



This is a day of thanks, one of thanksgiving. In Deuteronomy 26:1-11, the Israelites celebrate the first harvest by filling baskets with fruit and laying them in front of the altar. They were thankful for what God had given them. Fill a basket with different kinds of fruit and place it on your Thanksgiving table. Before the meal, pass the basket around the table and ask each person to take a piece of fruit, hold it up, and tell something they are thankful for. When all have taken a turn, say a psalm of thanksgiving: **Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name** (Psalm 100:4).



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