

**“Back to the Basics Part III: Christian Identity With a Grateful Heart”
“Giving Thanks Called to Thanksgiving”**

Today is traditionally Thanksgiving Sunday in the United States. We began part 3 of sermon series, “Back to the Basics: Christian Identity With a Grateful Heart.” We have remembered our saints, we have celebrated our confirmation class. This week, we will spend some time being thankful for God’s good gifts to us. May the love and grace they have shared make an impact on our church in this time and in the time to come. In this study guide we will be invited to write down something we are thankful for each day. A different thanksgiving prayer each day is written, that in words of Paul, we might “give thanks in all things.” I wish a blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours. ---Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Giving Thanks Called to Thanksgiving”**

Prayer for the Week

Thank You, Thank You, Generous God! *Thank You, thank You, thank You, generous God! You have injected life with joy, thus we know laughter. You have dabbled creation with color, thus we enjoy beauty. You have whistled a divine tune into the rhythm of life, thus we hear music. You have filled our minds with questions, thus we appreciate mystery. You have entered our hearts with compassion, thus we experience faith. Thank You, God, Thank You. Thank You!* - C. Welton Gaddy

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, 11/20/17 Deuteronomy 8: 6-10

This study guide is using an additional verse that was not read in worship. It puts in context the blessings received. The Israelites were reminded to keep the commandments in order to appreciate the blessings received. The challenge is of course to keep the commandments. The Ten Commandments are clear; love God and worship God alone, do not harm your neighbor in thought or deed. All the other commandments are basically commentary on how to accomplish those ten. God blesses us and calls us into accountability for those blessings. *As you look at this list of blessings, write down some of the blessings God has given you. **What are you thankful for today?***

Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven, and grant that we who are filled with good things from your open hand, may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. - From the abbey of New Clairvaux, Viña, California

Tuesday, 11/21/17 Deuteronomy 8:11-16

Now Deuteronomy gets personal. "Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God...when you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them...forgetting the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt." In others words, it is easy to forget and take for granted the food we eat, the clean water we drink, our family, our friends, our homes and even our faith. *How often do we arise in the morning and are amazed at the lights, or the warmth or the food available? What are you thankful for today?*

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be and bless these gifts bestowed by Thee. And bless our loved ones everywhere, and keep them in your loving care. Moravian Blessing

Wednesday, 11/22/17 Deuteronomy 8:17-18

How often do we define success as something we do? It is our talent, our intellect or our hard work that makes us successful. When we define success do we confuse it with being a celebrity? Is success about riches, about possessions, about status or the way we look? The author of Deuteronomy asks us to remember, remember it is God who gives us all we have and created us unique and unrepeatable. How do you find yourself remembering and in what ways and in what places? *Write down your blessings, your talents, your gifts, your possessions. What are you thankful for today?*

As you prepare for Thanksgiving Day, pray this traditional grace:

Be present at our table, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. Thy creatures bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with Thee. - John Cennick

Thursday, 11/23/17 Happy Thanksgiving! Psalm 100:1-5

Today, on this holiday, do some things which put you in a "thanksgiving" mood. Watch a bit of the Thanksgiving parade on television, read a portion of your favorite book, say I love you to someone who makes your life deeper and more wonderful. ***Write down one thing that you are grateful for today.***

Then, recite this Thanksgiving prayer written by Harry Jewell and enjoy the day.

Our Father in Heaven, We give thanks for the pleasure of gathering together for this occasion. We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands. We give thanks for life, the freedom to enjoy it all and all other blessings. As we partake of this food, we pray for health and strength to carry on and try to live as you would have us. This we ask in the name of Christ, Amen.

Friday, 11/24/17 Philippians 4:4-9

In our culture, the day after Thanksgiving is the official "kickoff" for the Christmas season. There are sales and other activities that encourage a glut of spending. In these verses from Paul, writing from prison, he writes words of contentment and gratitude. "Rejoice...don't worry, with thanksgiving give praise to God." Paul encourages us to pay attention to what is important, values that impact others' lives. ***What are you thankful for today?***

For each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything Thy goodness sends. --Ralph Waldo Emerson