

**“GIVING THANKS”
“Thankful in All Things”**

Today is traditionally Thanksgiving Sunday in the United States. We have remembered our saints, we have been challenged to give thanks every day with different objects. 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 the 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: **“Thankful in All Things”**

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 dabbed 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, November 19, 2018 1 Thessalonians 3: 6-8

Paul is so proud and thankful for this fledging church in Thessalonica. This is one of the earliest of Christian writings and Paul is concerned for this young group of believers. He was teaching them from a distance and was concerned so he sent Timothy to check on them, encourage them and strengthen them. Timothy returns to Paul with good news. Paul is encouraged, the Thessalonian church is encouraged and is with a thankful heart that Paul writes these words. Have you ever been worried about anyone or anything? When you found out that your worries were unfounded, how did you respond? What was your prayers of thanksgiving? What are you thankful for today? This is a part of a prayer of thanksgiving from Kelli Mahoney: *Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions. They lift me up in ways that keep my eyes focused on you and make my spirit soar. And Lord, I am so grateful for keeping those around me safe and loved. I hope you provide me with the ability and sense to show them every day how much they matter. I hope you give me the ability to give to them the same kindness they have provided to me. I am just so grateful for all of your blessings in my life, Lord. I pray that you remind me of just how lucky I am, and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned kind acts. Thank you, Lord. In your name, Amen.*

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-10

Paul is so grateful for those believers. "How can we thank God enough for you?" Praying and longing to be together so their faith can deepen. How can any of us thank God enough for each other? In what ways do you give thanks and show your gratitude for friends, family, and co-workers? How do you show thanks for all those individuals who make your life easier: waiters or waitresses, sales clerks, trash collectors, police or fire fighters? There are so many who serve and often without a word of thanks. Is there something specific you can do today to live out your gratitude, in addition to offering your prayers of thanksgiving? 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, November 21, 2018 1 Thessalonians 3: 11-13

On this day before Thanksgiving, many are traveling, or prepping for dinner tomorrow. Thanksgiving is the biggest traveling holiday, it is even bigger than Christmas and New Year's. I suspect there is something about being with family or friends that is deep within our spirits. In these verses Paul speaks of his longing to see these friends in person. Just like we long to see those we love in person, his prayer is for those to increase in love and faith. With great gratitude he writes of these friends in faith. What are you thankful for today? As you prepare for Thanksgiving Day, pray this prayer from beliefnet.com: *Praise to You, My God, and open my lips to pray for the righteous. Grant blessing throughout the earth. Satisfy the hungry, the poor, and the disenchanting. Proclaim freedom and let the voice of liberty be heard across the globe. Banish wickedness and greed. Pour Your spirit upon the rulers of the lands. Soften their hearts. May Your Truth spring from the ground and let justice rain down from the heavens. Thank You, oh God, for granting reward to all who trust in You.*

Thursday, November 22, 2018 Happy Thanksgiving! Psalm 100: 1-5

Today, on this holiday, do some things which will 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 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, November 23, 2018 Philipians 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