



Grateful at Thanksgiving

Have you noticed the leaves changing colors and the air growing crisp? Is it not a welcome blessing! This week is Thanksgiving! It arrives like a gentle invitation—a call to pause, reflect, and remember. But gratitude, as Scripture reminds us, is far more than a seasonal sentiment. It is a spiritual posture, a way of life that transforms how we see God, ourselves, and the world around us.

Psalm 100.4 urges us to ***“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name.”*** Thanksgiving is not just about turkey and traditions—it is about entering into the presence of God with a heart full of awe. Gratitude begins when we recognize that ***“every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” (James 1.17).*** It is not earned; it is received. When we thank God, we are not just being polite—we are declaring that He is faithful, generous, and near. Gratitude is a major part of worship.

Isn't it easy to be grateful when everything in your life is going well? But true thanksgiving shines brightest in the shadows. Paul writes, ***“Give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5.18).*** Not for all things, but *in* all things. Gratitude does not ignore pain—it reframes it. It reminds us that even in hardship, God is still working in us, redeeming us, and sustaining us. Gratitude shifts our focus from what is missing to what is present. From scarcity to abundance. From complaint to contentment.

Thanksgiving is a communal act. When we share the things for which we are thankful, we build bridges. We remind each other of God's goodness. We celebrate stories of provision, healing, and hope. Gratitude softens hearts, mends relationships, and fosters unity. This season, consider writing a note of appreciation to someone who has impacted your life. Speak words of appreciation. Share a meal. Give generously. Gratitude multiplies when it is expressed.



Thanksgiving Day may come and go, but a grateful heart endures forever. Let this season be a spark—not just for a moment of thanks, but for a movement of gratitude. Let it shape your prayers, your conversations, your choices. Because when we live with gratitude, we live with joy. And joy, rooted in Christ, is the strength that carries us through every season.

Gary

Shout To The LORD

SR: Psalm 66.1-4

- 1) This morning, we gather to enter into the presence of God with thanksgiving.
- 2) Many of the Psalms call upon us to lift up our voices to praise God.
- 3) Psalm 100 is a rousing exhortation to worship God.
- 4) How are we to come before the LORD?

We Are To Come Before The LORD With...

I) _____ (Psalm 100.1, 2).

A) The first exhortation in the psalm urges *“all the earth”* to engage in a joyful celebration of the LORD.

1) The NASB has *“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.”*

2) The word pictures an intense, energetic expressing of joy.

3) Since God is great and good, vigorous and happy praise should be given to Him.

B) The five verses of Psalm 100 contain 7 exhortations to rejoice.

1) Is worship to be a _____?

2) What qualities should we have in our worship of God?

3) God’s people have always revealed their _____ with _____.

(a) _____ (Exodus 15.1-13).

(b) _____ (Exodus 15.20, 21).

(c) _____ (2 Samuel 6.14, 15).

II) _____ (100.3).

A) Just as worship has a joyful side, it also has a _____ side.

1) The worship of God is to be entered with _____ and _____.

2) We must understand who God is and what He requires.

B) Worshipers belong to God by...

1) Right of _____.

2) Means of _____.

3) Right of _____.

III) _____ (100.4, 5).

A) Thanksgiving should dominate worship.

1) A grateful spirit freely sings in his worship of God.

2) We worship and give thanks because we are recipients of God’s _____.

B) Why should we worship God?

1) We worship God because of His... _____, _____, and _____.

2) The Christian is God’s _____, but he will be more fully His in _____.

Conclusion: Do you need to draw closer to God in worship and commitment?

C O N N E C T I O N

C Good morning church family! Did you hear that just recently the U.S. minted the very last penny that will be issued? Yes indeed the penny will soon go the way of 8-track tapes, VHS tapes, B&W TVs and Sting-Ray bicycles, etc.

R Many of us probably have a jar somewhere in the house though, full of pennies, nickels, and the occasional dime or quarter. We drop our spare change into it for months or even years. We tell ourselves that "one day" we'll take it to the bank, roll it up, or use it for something meaningful. But time passes, the jar fills, and too often it simply gathers dust on a shelf. Or, it becomes "too much trouble" to roll and use.

E You know, love can become like that jar.

We hold on to kind words we *mean* to say.

We save encouragement for the *best* moment.

We wait for the *right* time to call, to apologize, to reach out, or to embrace.

We store our compassion and affection like coins in a jar, believing we'll pour it out *someday*—when we're less busy, less tired, less stressed, less distracted.

But love hoarded is love wasted.

In John 13:34, Jesus said, "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" Jesus didn't save His love for a later, more convenient day. He didn't wait until people proved themselves worthy of His love and attention. He gave love freely, immediately, intentionally—and often to people who least expected it, and in the minds of some, didn't deserve it.

Pennies saved in a jar eventually become useful.

Love saved for later too often ends up arriving too late.

The phone call we meant to make.

The note we intended to write.

The hug we thought about giving.

The forgiveness we meant to offer.

The appreciation we thought we should have expressed.

These opportunities don't last forever.

This week, decide to "empty the jar."

Spend love freely.

Give kindness generously.

Offer grace now—not someday. You'll be blessed!

--Les Keele



By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13: 35

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MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Steve Taylor

Song Leader - Matt Sloan

Song - Let God Arise

Song - I Am Crucified With Christ

Song - Jesus, Let Us Come To Know You

Opening Prayer - Joe Gentry

Scripture - Psalm 66. 1-4

Song - How Deep The Father's Love

Lord's Supper - Buck Thomas

Prayer for Contribution - Buck Thomas

Song - Shout Hallelujah

Shout To The Lord - Gary Williams

Song - Calling The Prodigal

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Chuck Meyer

Our Code for Tithe.ly

Giving



QR Code for

Attendance



Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, November 24

Amos 3-4; Acts 13

Tuesday, November 25

Amos 5-7; Acts 14

Wednesday, November 26

Amos 8-9; Acts 15

Thursday, November 27

Nehemiah 1-2; Acts 16; Psalm 66

Friday, November 28

Psalm 122; Nehemiah 3; Acts 17

Saturday, November 29

Nehemiah 4-5; Acts 18

Sunday, November 30

Nehemiah 6; Acts 19; Psalm 59

Last Week

Bible Class	115	Wednesday	110
Worship	218	Contribution	\$ 14,941.09
PM Worship	73	Budget	\$ 14,216.88

Times of Assemblies

Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM