



# CELEBRATING GRATITUDE

A Service of the Word

## PREPARATION

*In preparation for this act of worship, you might wish to pray privately this Prayer of General Thanksgiving.*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.  
We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation,  
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,  
and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,  
and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts,  
and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures  
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;  
for the truth of his Word and the example of his life;  
for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation;  
for his dying, through which he overcame death;  
and for his rising to life again,  
in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit,  
that we may know him and make him known;  
and through him, at all times and in all places,  
may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

*Prayer of General Thanksgiving, BCP New York 1979*

## PREPARATION

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving,  
**and enter his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to the Lord  
**and bless his name.**

For the Lord is good;  
**his steadfast love endures forever.**

*cf. Psalm 100.4-5*

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

## Prayers of Penitence

As those who know the generosity of God,  
let us confess our sins,  
especially the ways in which we take his good gifts for granted.

Creative God, you have gifted us with your creation,  
yet we take your good gifts for granted;  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Gracious God, you bless us each day,  
yet we forget to be thankful;  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Generous God, you offer new life through your Son,  
yet we turn away from you;  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Canticle: A Song of David

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;  
you are exalted as head over all.**

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,  
for yours is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours;  
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,  
and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you  
and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and might;  
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God,  
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For all things come from you,  
and of your own have we given you.

*1 Chronicles 29.10b-13,14b*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;  
you are exalted as head over all.**

## The Collect

In a time of silence,  
let us pray that we may draw closer  
to the one who has created all things.

*Silence is kept.*

God of grace, ever creating and restoring,  
you breathe life into all things  
and embrace us with an everlasting love;  
help us to grow in wonder and awe,  
to embody a spirit of gratitude,  
and to dream generous dreams;  
that, in gathering what we have,  
we may graciously offer ourselves  
to accomplish what you will,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## The First Reading

Ruth chapters three and four

## Psalmody: Psalm 136.1-9, 23-end

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,  
for his mercy endures for ever.**

- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 4 Who alone does great wonders,  
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 5 Who by wisdom made the heavens,  
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 6 Who laid out the earth upon the waters,  
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 7 Who made the great lights,  
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 8 The sun to rule the day,  
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night,  
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble,  
for his mercy endures for ever;

- 24 And delivered us from our enemies,  
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 25 Who gives food to all creatures,  
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his mercy endures for ever.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,  
for his mercy endures for ever.**

## Second Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.' But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.'

Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

*Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*A sermon may be given.*

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,**  
**from whom every family**  
**in heaven and on earth is named.**  
**We believe in God the Son,**  
**who lives in our hearts through faith,**  
**and fills us with his love.**  
**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**  
**who strengthens us**  
**with power from on high.**  
**We believe in one God;**  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen.**

*cf Ephesians 3*



# PRAYERS

## A Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God  
for his gifts so generous given to us,  
and for the blessings we each abundantly receive.

For the beauty of creation,  
for the wonder of new life,  
for all things seen and unseen.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

*Psalm 75.1*

For the gift of life that you breathe into us,  
for minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For our families and friends,  
for all who we love and who love us,  
for your image revealed through those around us.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For life of your church,  
its vibrancy and diversity,  
for the mission in which we all share.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For the vocations in which you call us,  
for the skills which are nurtured and grow,  
for our ministries in all walks of life.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For your seed of creativity planted in each person,  
for voices to sing our praises to you,  
for our capacity to create.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For your love which brings us peace even in the darkest of times,  
for your strength when we feel weak and vulnerable,  
for your hope when all seems lost.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For all financial gifts offered to our church,  
for blessings offered to be a blessing to others,  
for sacrifices made to further mission and enable us to be Christ in the world.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For the generosity of this community,  
for all who give their time and skills,  
for the gifts which are built up and encouraged,  
for acts which point beyond themselves and reveal your glory.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For you, O God,  
for your beauty revealed in all things around us,  
for love and life everlasting.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For the wisdom of your Spirit,  
for gifts given and nurtured,  
for sustaining us in prayer.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For your Son, Jesus Christ,  
for the gift of his perfect sacrifice,  
for our hope in him, and the joy of serving his Church.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

## Intercessions

*Intercessions are offered, and may end with;*

Source of all life and giver of all that is good,  
hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy forever. **Amen.**

## The Offering

*An offering may be taken.*

*There should be time for people to reflect on gifts given electronically.*

God of all creation,  
the source of life and giver of all good things;  
you have blessed us with all we have.  
In our worship we bring now our first fruits:  
gifts of gratitude, given in many ways.  
With them we offer our lives.  
Bless these gifts that they may be used to serve others,  
to your praise and glory. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

The God of love enrich us in every way,  
with hearts overflowing with thanksgiving to God;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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