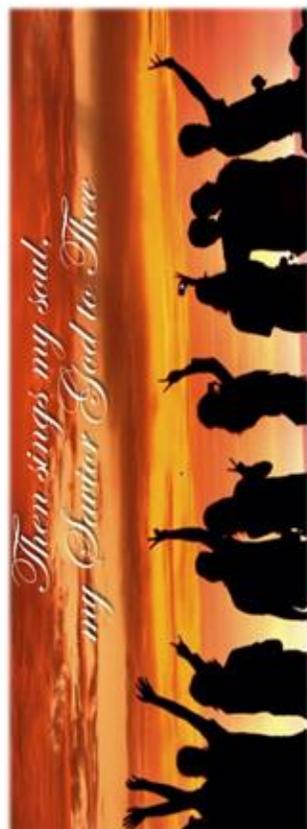


Praise and Thanks to Our God – November

Call to Prayer: St. Vincent insisted, “We must give as much time to thanking God for his favors as we have used in asking him for them.” Louis Abelly, *Biography of Vincent de Paul* vol. 3, Ch. 17

ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: “How Great Thou Art” by Stuart K. Hine



Verses

1. O Lord my God! When I in awe-some won-der Con-si-der
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, And hear the

1. all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
2. birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; When I look down from

1. hear the *roll-ing thun-der, Thy pow'r through-out the
2. lof-ty moun-tain gran-deur And hear the brook, and

Refrain

1. u-ni-verse dis-played; Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God to
2. feel the gen-tle breeze;

thee; How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my
Sav-ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

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Reading “In his autobiography, (*A View from the Ridge*) Morris West suggests that at a certain age our lives simplify and we need have only three phrases left in our spiritual vocabulary: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! He is right, if we understand fully what is implied in living out gratitude. Gratitude is the ultimate virtue, undergirding everything else, even love. It is synonymous with holiness.

“Gratitude not only defines sanctity, it also defines maturity. We are mature to the degree that we are grateful. ...

“Live in gratitude. To be a saint is to be fueled by gratitude, nothing more and nothing less.” Rolheiser <http://ronrolheiser.com/the-major-imperatives-within-mature-discipleship/#.WaxS9WaovIU>

Response ALL: O God, Savior of our souls, you chose to fashion us as the handiwork of your love. We are the work of your hands. We give you praise for calling us to sanctity, to life in union with you. All we can say is:

“Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, loving God!”





Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 16:34 - 36 (alternate sides)

- 1 Give thanks to the God who is good, whose love endures forever.
- 2 Cry out, "Save us, God our Savior; gather us and deliver us,
 - 1. that we may give thanks to Your name and glory in Your praise."
 - 2. Praise be to You, our loving God, from everlasting to everlasting.

ALL: All the people said "Amen! Praise and thanks, O God."

adapted from New International Version

Reflection and Sharing: (Pause briefly to reflect, then share as time permits.)

For what am I most grateful today that I often take for granted?
 Who would benefit from a sign or word of appreciation from me?

Intercessions

Leader: Loving God, in response to St. Vincent's urging, we give you thanks for all your favors, so generously bestowed upon us.

Response -- ALL: With thankful hearts, we praise you, O God.

- + For frequently opening our eyes and hearts to Your goodness and love, we pray ...
- + For allowing us to accept gratefully all the good things others offer us, we pray ...
- + For setting us free from excessive worry in order to trust You alone, we pray ...
- + For opening our hands that we might be generous to persons who are poor, we pray ...
- + For Your constant presence with us on our daily journeys, we pray ...
- + For all the people and the things You provide which we take for granted, we pray ...

(Prayers of Thanksgiving are welcome.)

Our Father

Closing Prayer **ALL:** Father in Heaven, Creator and source of all goodness, please, look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude at this time of giving thanks. Praise and glory to You for all the graces You shower on us. You have bestowed many spiritual and temporal blessings: our faith and religious practices; our food and shelter; our health; the love we have for one another, our family and friends; the ministry You have given us as Ladies of Charity. Dear God, in Your infinite generosity, please, grant us ongoing graces and blessing throughout our lives. This we ask in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Brother, through Your Holy Spirit . Amen.

adapted from Catholic Online <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=492>

Blessing **Leader:** God, bless and keep us in Your loving care always. **ALL: Amen.**

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Prayer Texts from New International Version

Psalms 9:1 "I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart ..."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "... give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

prepared for the Ladies of Charity by Sr. Carol Schumer, D.C., November, 2017

