

## Gratitude with a Vincentian Heart

**Call to Prayer** **Leader:** “[Vincent] ... used to say that nothing was so efficacious in winning the heart of God as a spirit of gratitude for his gifts and blessings. In this spirit he had the custom of thanking God often for the gifts from his bounty ...” Let us pray...

*The Life of the Venerable Servant of God* Louis Abelly, Book 3, page 236

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

**Leader:** O God, come to our assistance

**ALL:** O Lord, make haste to help us.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**ALL:** As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end.  
Amen.

**Hymn** “Now Thank We All Our God” text from Sirach 50: 22 by Martin Rinkart, 1586-1649

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother’s arms, has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

**Antiphon** **ALL:** Thank You, God!

### Psalm 136

**Leader:** Thank You, God, for all these things that reveal Your love.

**Side 1:** Thank You for the heavens that cover us,  
for the earth beneath our feet,  
for the sun in the day and the stars at night,  
for the snow and the rains and the rivers and the lakes,  
for mountains and valleys and trees and flowers.



**Leader:** Thank you, God, for those people who demonstrate Your love.

**Side 2:** Thank You for those great people who follow You throughout history,  
for the priests and prophets and apostles and ministers,  
for the doctors and teachers and mothers and fathers,  
and painters and musicians and writers  
and farmers and laborers and clerks,  
for those men and women who accepted Your love  
and dedicated their lives to loving their neighbor.

**ALL:** Thank You, God, for choosing me to be one of Your people,  
for calling me and equipping me to communicate Your love  
to the world about me. Thank You, God!

adapted from *Psalms/Now*, Leslie F. Brandt, page 208

**ALL:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was  
in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.



**Leader:** St. Louise de Marillac often began her letters with sincere expressions of gratitude. She lived an “attitude of gratitude” to God and others. Here’s what she writes to us:

**Reading 1** “... what is God asking of us by the Incarnation of His dear Son other than gratitude for our Redemption?”

*Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac, A.7 page 700, “Retreat Meditations” Fourth Day, (c 1628)*

**Reading 2** “I praise God that in His goodness He makes use of you ... Oh, how blessed you are! You must show your gratitude for this by a more perfect love for Our Lord who moves us to a more fervent practice of ... virtues.”

*Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac, L. 461, page 493, (November 1655)*

**Leader:** From St. Vincent de Paul, we hear:

**Reading 3** “We can be faithful to God in many ways. First, by being attentive to ... the graces His Goodness grants us at almost every moment and to esteem them, receiving them with gratitude ... Second, to consider why God gives us these graces. It can only be to manifest His glory and to unite us to Him, who is our last end; this should raise our hearts to love Him above all things.”

*Correspondence, Conferences Vincent de Paul Coste, Vol. 9, C54, page 493, FIDELITY TO GOD, June 3, 1653*

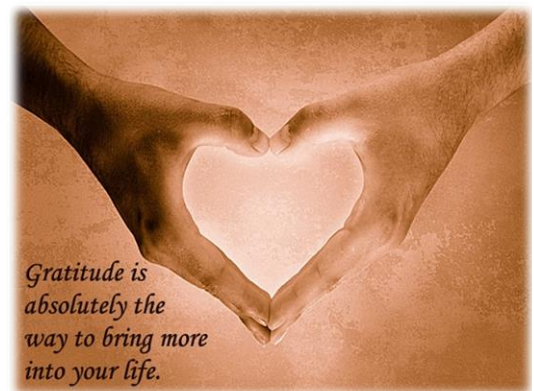
**Personal Reflection**

For who, what am I thankful today?

What would help me become a woman of gratitude in my daily life?

How do God and persons living in poverty call me to thankfulness?

**Prayer ALL:** O God, whenever we gather to listen to You and to each other we have a banquet of Good News. We ask you to continue to give each of us the wisdom we need always to seek the basic message of your Son, Jesus, to respect, honor and love each other. May we leave this meeting a little more aware, a little more sensitive and a little more in tune with the essentials of life and of our association. We ask this in praise and thanksgiving for Your goodness of the gifts of St. Vincent, St. Louise and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Amen.



adapted from Manual of the Ladies of Charity of the United States of America, page 26

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**Prayer Texts**

Psalm 107:1 O, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

1 Thes. 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Eph. 5:20 Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.