

Live Gratefully -- November Prayer Service

Call to Prayer

Voice 1: "Some people grumble that roses have thorns; I am grateful that thorns have roses." Alphonse Karr *A Tour Round My Garden*

Voice 2: "Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer." Maya Angelou *Celebrations: Rituals of Peace and Prayer*

Voice 3: "If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough." Meister Eckhart

Voice 4: "May the world receive the Good News ... from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have ... the joy of Christ and who proclaim (it) ... in the midst of the world..."

Pope Francis *Through the Year with Pope Francis, Daily Reflections*, p. 130

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 "Let All Things Now Living" (two lines of verse 1, last four of verse 2)



1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing To
Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us, By
2. His law he en - forc - es, The stars in their cours - es, The
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains, The



1. God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
guid - ing us on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are
2. sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine,
depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine. We, too, should be



1. o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us, A pil - lar of fire shin - ing
2. voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a

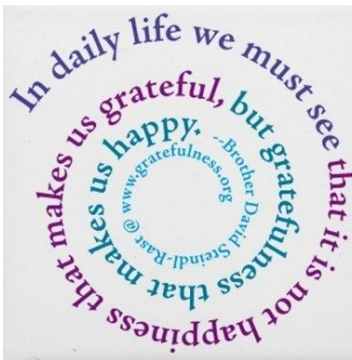


1. forth in the night: Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is
2. song let us raise: Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks -



1. ban - ished, As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
2. giv - ing, To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

Reading: In the *Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis writes: "... prayer moves us ... to take up the task of evangelization and to seek the good of others ... Let us peer for a moment into the heart of Saint Paul, to see what his prayer was like. It was full of people: "...I constantly pray with you in every one of my prayers for all of you... because I hold you in my heart." (Philippians 1:4, 7) Here we see that prayer ... always has a place for others. (#281) This attitude becomes a prayer of gratitude to God for others. "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you." (Romans 1:8) It is constant thankfulness: ... "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." (Philippians 1:3) ... It is a spiritual gaze born of deep faith which acknowledges what God is doing in the lives of others. At the same time, it is the gratitude which flows from a heart attentive to others. When evangelizers rise from prayer, their hearts are more open; freed ..., they are desirous of doing good and sharing their lives with others." (#282)



ALL: "To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything ... and (God) has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of (God's) love, every moment of existence is a grace ... Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference."

Thomas Merton

Personal Reflection and Sharing

What would help me live gratefully in my daily life?

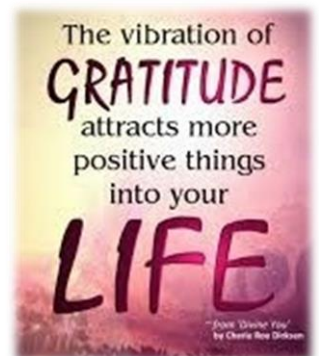
How do I show love and gratitude in my service to persons living in poverty?

Response "All My Days" (Dan Schutte)

Refrain

Till the end of my days, O Lord, I will bless your name,
sing your praise, give you thanks, all my days.

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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

- 1 Thes. 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- Col. 3:17 Whatever you do ... Give thanks to God ..."