

THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love,
Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Stewardship

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning/afternoon and welcome to our Thanksgiving Prayer Service. Each year at this time we give God thanks for all we received through the spring and summer and into the fall. The rains of April and May soften the ground so that it is ready for planting the crops that will feed us through the rest of the year. A good summer and fall harvest brings us so much to be thankful for. The glorious fall colours come alive in the sun's light. They move us to wonder and praise for God's gift of life. Let us take a few moments now to give thanks to our God, beginning with the sign of our faith:

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

OPENING SONG:

Please join in singing our opening song...

Sugg: *Come with Me Into the Fields*. Glory and Praise Vol 1, No. 11.

(See p.3 for additional songs)

LEADER:

Let us be attentive and listen to God's word.

1ST READING:

A reading from the letter from Paul to the Colossians. (Colossians 3, 15-17).

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and instruct one another in all wisdom, and with thanksgiving in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: (psalm 65)

After each verse, please say:

We thank you O God and we praise you.

O God, it is right for us to praise you,
And keep our promises to you,
Because you answer prayers. **We thank you...**

You show your care for the land by sending rain;
You make it rich and fertile.
You fill the streams with water;
You provide the earth with crops. **We thank you...**

You send abundant rain on the ploughed fields
And soak them with water;

EOCCC: *Our Language, Our Story 1.0*, 2009.

You soften the soil with showers and cause the young plants to grow.
What a rich harvest your goodness provides! **We thank you...**

Wherever you go there is plenty.
The pastures are filled with flocks;
The hillsides are full of joy. **We thank you...**

The fields are covered with sheep;
The valleys are full of wheat.
Everything shouts and sings for joy. **We thank you...**

GOSPEL READING:

Listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Matthew:

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL:

(This would be a good time to insert some kind of music, procession or visual presentation)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LEADER:

The response to our prayers is ***We thank you, God***

ALL: We thank you God.

- ❖ For the gift of our country and the peace we enjoy as Canadians. ***We thank...***
- ❖ For the gift of our land in all its beauty. ***We thank...***
- ❖ For the gift of our food, and the farmers who grow it for us. ***We thank...***
- ❖ For the gift of our parents and those who care for us. ***We thank...***
- ❖ For the gift of our teachers and pastors who help us learn in the light of our faith. ***We thank...***
- ❖ For the gift of our faith, and the freedom to live as followers of Jesus. ***We thank...***

LEADER:

Let us now add our own intentions and prayers of thanks to God, responding:
Lord hear our prayer...

LEADER:

We are God's sons and daughters. With trust in God who gives us all good things, let us bring the prayers we have spoken and those still in our hearts before our Him, using the words that Jesus taught us. **Our Father ...**

CLOSING PRAYER:

God our Father, you gave us your greatest gift by sending Jesus, who showed us the way to live together in love. Through your gift of baptism, you made us one with Jesus, so that we could share in his rising from the dead and be with you forever. We thank you for all the blessings you give us. They remind us of your goodness and care. Help us to always be thankful and ready to share what you have given us, so that all people might know the everlasting love and kindness you give us in Christ. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Song:**Suggestions:**

Thank you Lord

Hi God (Carey Landrey) p.60
 (Primary Level)

Thank God for He is Good
 Spirit and Song No. 80

Now Thank We All our God
 Rise Up and Sing No. 297
 CBW III No. 535

For the Beauty of the Earth
 Rise up and Sing No.293
 CBW III No. 531

Glory and Praise to our God

Young Peoples Glory and Praise No.
 16

Rise Up and Sing No. 249

Bless the Lord My God
 Glory and Praise III

For the Fruits of this Creation
 Rise Up and Sing No. 238
 CBW III No. 533

Thank you, God
 Rise Up and Sing No. 198

All the Ends of the Earth
 Glory and Praise III