

THANKSGIVING COMMUNION SERVICE

1. Today, what are you thankful for?
2. Looking back, describe a time when you were thankful.
3. What will you hopefully be thankful for in the future?

Loving God,

You take care of all our needs

and love us more than we can imagine.

You never change from generation to generation.

You have given us everything.

*Thank You for our joys, sorrows, trials, failures,
and triumphs.*

Thank You for never leaving us.

Above all, thank You for the hope we have in

Christ,

Through Him we pray, Amen.

READINGS:

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving
and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His name.
For the LORD is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.

—Psalm 100, NIV

Let us give thanks to the Lord for the people He has given us.
For parents and grandparents, for sons and daughters, for brothers and sisters, for husband and wife,
for all those who reflect to us the human dimension of Your love,
we give You thanks, O Lord.
For neighbors and colleagues, for friends both far away and nearby—
for all those who share the joys and sorrows of our daily lives,
we give You thanks, O Lord.
For those who serve us in restaurants, in repair shops, in stores,
in schools, in hospitals—
for all those who make our lives more comfortable,
we give You thanks, O Lord.

For the family of God, for the church,
and for those who worship with us and minister to us in this
church,

we give You thanks, O Lord.

For those who are weak and destitute,
for those who need protection and support,
for those who need healing and nurturing,
for all those to whom we minister,
we give You thanks, O Lord. Amen.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into His presence with singing!

For all the times we laughed till our sides ached;

for all the times we were troubled

and friends we didn't know we had

sprang up from nowhere and ministered to us;

for all the times we chose good over evil;

for all the times we could have been hurt, but weren't;

O Lord, we thank You.

Know that the Lord is God!

It is He that made us, and we are His;

we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

For the sheer wonder of our creation, preservation, and
redemption;

for the privilege of prayer, the gift of the Spirit,

and the gifts of the Spirit;

for the everlasting arms beneath us,

the watchful eye above us,

the friends around us,

and the trust within us;

O Lord, we thank You.

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

For our churches,
and all things good and godly they have done and been;
for all their saints whom we have laid to rest;
and for their little children,
who shall one day lay our bodies to rest
and carry on in our stead;
O Lord, we thank You.

For the Lord is good.

For seedtime and harvest and food enough;
for every good night's sleep and every good day's work;
for every good friend and every grand sunset;
for warm memories of the past
and the promise of an eternal tomorrow;
for eyes to see beauty,
ears to hear a bird's songs,
hands to hold someone else's hands,
and someone else's hands to hold;
O Lord, we thank You.

**His steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

For all persons whose love for us is unconditional,
and in whose presence we can drop all pretense,
be ourselves, and know that we shall be accepted;
for the one who calls us long distance
and the one who calls us darling,
and the one who calls us Son or Daughter;
and the one who calls us Dad or Mom;
for the one who shall one day call us into eternity;
O Lord, we thank You.

**What shall we give the Lord for all that He has given us?
We will offer to Him the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Amen.**

—based on Psalm 100: 116:12, 17

All good things come from You, O God,
and with gratitude we return to You what is Yours.
You created all that is, and with love formed us in Your
image.
When our love failed, Your love remained steadfast.
You gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.
All that we are and all that we have are from You.
And so, in gratitude for all Your gifts,
we offer ourselves and all that we have,
in union with Christ's offering for us.
By Your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim God's greatness.
Tell the nations what God has done.
Sing praise to the Lord.
Tell the wonderful things God has done.
Be glad that we belong to God.
Let all who worship God rejoice.
The Lord is our God;
God's commands are for all the world.
God will keep His covenant forever,
God's promises last for a thousand generations.
Praise the Lord!

—based on Psalm 105:1-3, 7-8, 45, TEV

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Discussion Questions

Read Psalm 100 and discuss the following.

1. For what are you most thankful?
2. What six reasons does the psalmist give to praise God? Do these apply to "all the earth" or just to "his people"?
3. What responsibilities are involved in knowing the Lord is God (verse 3)? Is any part of God's creation out of his realm of concern?
4. What attitude characterizes God's people (verses 4-5)? What is thanksgiving a public, communal event?
5. Which of the six reasons most motivates you to praise God? Which is the least exciting?
6. Is your expression of joy too limited? Too private? Do you need the freedom to have a more joyful life?