



**GENEROSITY
WEEK**



A Service of Gratitude

The Second Sunday Service



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

PREPARATION

In preparation for this act of worship, you might wish to pray privately this Prayer of General Thanksgiving.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving kindness.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be thankful,
and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

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

Amen.

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving,
and enter his courts with praise.

Give thanks to the Lord
and bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever.

cf. Psalm 100.4-5

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.



Prayers of Penitence

As those who know the generosity of God,
let us confess our sins,
especially the ways in which we take his good gifts for granted.

Creative God, you have gifted us with your creation,
yet we take your good gifts for granted;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Gracious God, you bless us each day,
yet we forget to be thankful;
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Generous God, you offer new life through your Son,
yet we turn away from you;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

In a time of silence, let us pray that we may draw closer
to the one who has created all things.

Silence is kept.

God of grace, ever creating and restoring,
you breathe life into all things
and embrace us with an everlasting love;
help us to grow in wonder and awe,
to embody a spirit of gratitude,
and to dream generous dreams;
that, in gathering what we have,
we may graciously offer ourselves
to accomplish what you will,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved,[d] to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5.1-19



Psalmody: Psalm 136.1-9, 23-end

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for his mercy endures for ever.**

- 2** Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 3** Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 4** Who alone does great wonders,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 5** Who by wisdom made the heavens,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 6** Who laid out the earth upon the waters,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 7** Who made the great lights,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 8** The sun to rule the day,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 9** The moon and the stars to govern the night,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 23** Who remembered us when we were in trouble,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 24** And delivered us from our enemies,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 25** Who gives food to all creatures,
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 26** Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his mercy endures for ever.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for his mercy endures for ever.**



Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11.25-30

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A sermon may be given.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3



PRAYERS

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God
for his gifts so generous given to us,
and for the blessings we each abundantly receive.

For the beauty of creation,
for the wonder of new life,
for all things seen and unseen.

We give you thanks, O God.

Psalm 75.1

For the gift of life that you breathe into us,
for minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve.

We give you thanks, O God.

For our families and friends,
for all who we love and who love us,
for your image revealed through those around us.

We give you thanks, O God.

For life of your church,
its vibrancy and diversity,
for the mission in which we all share.

We give you thanks, O God.

For the vocations in which you call us,
for the skills which are nurtured and grow,
for our ministries in all walks of life.

We give you thanks, O God.

For your creativity planted in each person,
for voices to sing our praises to you,
for our capacity to create.

We give you thanks, O God.



For your love which brings us peace even in the darkest of times,
for your strength when we feel weak and vulnerable,
for your hope when all seems lost.

We give you thanks, O God.

For all financial gifts offered to our church,
for blessings offered to be a blessing to others,
for sacrifices made to further mission and enable us to be Christ in the world.

We give you thanks, O God.

For the generosity of this community,
for all who give their time and skills,
for the gifts which are built up and encouraged,
for acts which point beyond themselves and reveal your glory.

We give you thanks, O God.

For you, O God,
for your beauty revealed in all things around us,
for love and life everlasting.

We give you thanks, O God.

For the wisdom of your Spirit,
for gifts given and nurtured,
for sustaining us in prayer.

We give you thanks, O God.

For your Son, Jesus Christ,
for the gift of his perfect sacrifice,
for our hope in him, and the joy of serving his Church.

We give thanks to you, O God.



Intercessions

Intercessions are offered, and may end with;

Source of all life and giver of all that is good,
hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy forever.

Amen.

The Offering

An offering may be taken.

There should be time for people to reflect on gifts given electronically.

God of all creation,
the source of life and giver of all good things;
through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
With them we offer our lives;
that we may be used to serve others,
and give you glory.
We make our prayer
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

The God of love enrich us in every way,
with hearts overflowing with thanksgiving to God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.





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