

November 23, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

THANKSGIVING DAY

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Second Reading

Brothers and sisters:

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift*

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-7

Reflection

Let grateful praises ring out this day as we rejoice and give thanks for all that

has been bestowed upon us. All is gift, even every breath taken. As St. Paul reminds us, “that we may not be lacking in any spiritual gift.” It is good to give thanks.

This may be the only feast that unites us as a people in one great celebration of family, friends, and community. I offer my own reflections on this feast as I give thanks for all that has been for me and for us. God has loved us so well and seems to pursue us with goodness and desire that all be one in God and with one another, even in times of strife. May this be true, at least for today. Happy Thanksgiving.



Family celebrating Thanksgiving
By cottonbro studio

Rite of Thanksgiving

We have shared bread many times in our lives, in many places, for many reasons. May our breaking of bread this day be a witness of deep thanksgiving and a sign of hope in the goodness of humanity and of God’s abiding presence in our lives. We give thanks for the faith we share:

- in the ongoing goodness of a God who journeys with us
- in the power of love to remove any barrier within and among us
- in the mystery of the call given to each one here, to make bread, and life and beauty available to everyone.

We pray then, good and gracious God, that we might recognize you as we celebrate today, giving thanks and breaking bread with one another.

You, gracious God, are the bread of heaven, the bread of the poor, the bread of our lives. May we recognize you every time we join someone on a journey, every time we share a meal, every time we take bread into our hands.

And may this recognition call forth such a joy in us that we might never lose sight of your goodness.

May it inspire such love in us that our hearts might continue to burn within us, keeping alive your memory and your promise.

And may it provoke such a longing for truth in us that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth experiences your justice and your peace.

Let us share with gratitude at the forefront of our minds, knowing that our lives are forever changed by this and every breaking of bread.

On this Thanksgiving Day, may your gracious love flow among us, heal divisions great and small, and foster goodness, beauty, truth, and integrity that comes from living in your ways, reverencing the life of each person near and far.

For Prayer

“For all that has been, Thank You; for all that will be, Yes.”

DAG HAMMARSKJOLD

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