

SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER



PRAYER: Magnificat of Gratitude ["Mittiam of Nazareth" by Ann Johnson]

Reading 1: Count them, my spirit, and be grateful,
count the wonders one by one,
each drop of rain, each kiss,
each kind word, each rose and garlic bud.

Observe them all, my soul, and give thanks.
How many times have you been redeemed?
How many breezes blow clouds away?
How many seeds burst into life.

Holy is God, alive and active ...

Reading 2: For all your universal wonders, we praise you.
For all your showering benefits, we thank you.
For all your daily miracles, we murmur gratitude.
Generation after generation you continue to bless.

You are the rock we grasp and hold.
You are the shield we lift for protection.
Age upon age you remain steadfast.

At all times and seasons,
in all places and persons,
we see and hear and feel
the goodness of your presence ...

ALL: **To you we lift our hearts and voices
In this prayer of gratitude. AMEN.**



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READING 3: Gratitude is God's Will for Us

God's will for us is to be thankful, not just on good days but on the hard ones as well. It's easy to practice gratitude when things are going well. But when times are hard, we may struggle to find something to be thankful for. Stress, grief, disappointment, and heartache often prevent us from seeing God's goodness in difficult situations. Scripture challenges us to do just that. In Paul's first Letter to the Thessalonians he writes, "be thankful in all circumstances" (5:18)

But how can we grow a heart of gratitude in all circumstances? We must choose to believe that God is good even when life's circumstances aren't. Believe that despite our suffering God is still with us. Jesus sees us and he cares for us. He walks with us in the valley. We are not alone. Thinking of Jesus's nearness can help generate feelings of gratitude.

PRAYER TO NURTURE GRATITUDE

Reading 4: Thank you, God, for the times You have said "no."
They have helped me depend on You so much more.

Thank you, God, for unanswered prayers.
It reminds me that You know what is best for me,
even when my opinion differs from Yours.

Thank you, God, for the things you have withheld from me.
You have protected me from what I may never realize.

Thank you, God, for the doors You have closed.
They have prevented me from going where You would
rather not have me go.

Reading 5: Thank you, God, for the uncertainties I've experienced.
They have deepened my trust in You.

Thank you, Lord, for the times You came through for me
when I didn't even know I needed a rescue.

Thank you, God, for the tears I have shed.
They have kept my heart soft and mold-able.

**And thank you, God, that You know me, and that You love me.
May I always place my trust in You.**

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CLOSING PRAYER:

Gracious God, who so graciously lavishes our lives with goodness, create in our hearts a deep center of gratitude, a center that grows so strong in its gratefulness that sharing freely of our treasures becomes the norm and the pattern of our existence. Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hours of greatest need. May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth, and unearned love. AMEN.

