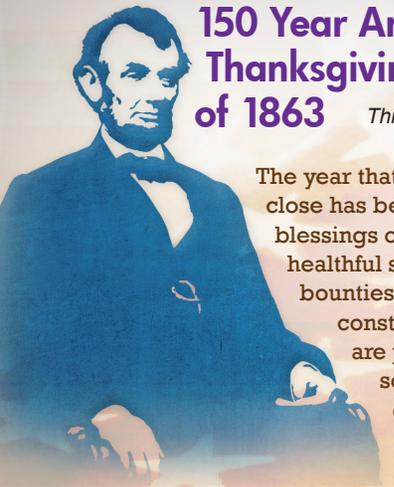




Thanksgiving

Celebrating the Provision of God



150 Year Anniversary of the Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863

This is an abbreviated form.

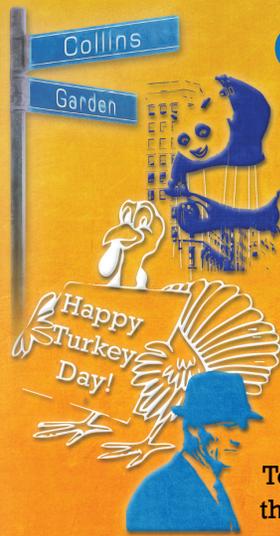
The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature

that they can not fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God... No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purpose, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and union.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this 3d day of October A.D. 1863, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

Abraham Lincoln



Growing up, Thanksgiving Day meant only three things: The Macy's Parade, the Turkey, and the Dallas Cowboys (Tom Landry era). We made sure that the dinner would never interfere with the game. It wasn't until later that it dawned on me that Thanksgiving Day was set aside for Giving Thanks. Who knew? The next questions were: To whom do we give thanks? Why should we give thanks? When do we give thanks? The answers changed my perspective. It is God to whom I owe thanks. It is God who provides for me. It is God who deserves my thanksgiving on a daily basis. So did I celebrate Turkey Day or Giving of Thanks to God? I did both. On the day before Turkey Day, my wife would cook a beautiful turkey, my three kids helped me set the table, and we took our time thanking God for His love and provision. The next day we would celebrate with my relatives by eating more turkey than we should and then enjoy watching the Cowboys win! (Again, I'm talking about the Tom Landry era). Below is a prayer right out of Psalm 100. Take the time as a family to thank God for His goodness.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Father I come making a joyful shout unto you. To serve you with gladness; I come before Your presence with singing knowing You indeed are God! It is You who have made me, and not I myself; Your people are the sheep of Your pasture. I will enter into Your gates with thanksgiving, and into Your presence with praise. I am thankful to You, and I bless Your name. For You are good and gracious to me; Your mercy is everlasting and Your truth endures to all generations. For You, my Father, so loved me and this world that You gave Your only Son, Jesus, that whoever believes in Him should not die but have eternal life. I state now, in Your presence, that You are the sole provider of everything that I've had in the past, everything I now have, and everything for eternity to come.

Thank You for Your kindness
Thank You for Your mercy
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the price You paid

There is no one like You
There is no one like You God
All my hope is in You
Jesus

To Your Name
We give all the glory
To Your Name
We give all the praise
You're alive

Thank You for salvation
Thank You for unending grace
Thank You for Your hope
Thank You for this life You give

Thank You for Your promise
Thank You for Your favor
Thank You for Your love
Everything You've done for me

Our God everlasting
Let Your face shine on us



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