

Thanksgiving Service Kit

A harvest and thanksgiving order — Psalm 100 and Psalm 136 readings, a litany of thanks, and inserts for the family table.

When to use it: Thanksgiving Day, harvest festival, and the Sunday before.

Order of service

1. Prelude / gathering music
2. Call to worship (Scripture below)
3. Opening hymn
4. Invocation
5. Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon
6. Responsive reading
7. Scripture reading
8. Sermon
9. Response — communion, offering, or prayer
10. Closing hymn
11. Benediction

Hymn suggestions (public domain)

- Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
- Now Thank We All Our God
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Suggested preaching text

Psalm 100 with Luke 17:11-19.

Calls to worship

Read one aloud to open the service. Short is better than long — the point is to turn the room toward God before anything else is said.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100:4-5 (KJV)

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 107:1 (KJV)

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:1-2 (KJV)

Invocation

Gracious Father, every good gift comes down from thee. Before we ask thee for anything this morning, we stop to thank thee. Loosen our grip, open our hands, and make us a grateful people. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Lord, we confess our ingratitude. We have counted what we lack more carefully than what thou hast given. Forgive our complaining and teach us to give thanks in everything. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV)

Responsive reading

His Mercy Endureth For Ever

Leader reads the plain lines; the congregation reads the lines in bold. Print this page in the bulletin exactly as it appears here.

Leader: O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good:

Psalm 136:1 (KJV)

People: **For his mercy endureth for ever.**

Psalm 136:1 (KJV)

Leader: To him who alone doeth great wonders:

Psalm 136:4 (KJV)

People: **For his mercy endureth for ever.**

Psalm 136:4 (KJV)

Leader: Who giveth food to all flesh:

Psalm 136:25 (KJV)

All: **O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.**

Psalm 136:26 (KJV)

Offering sentence

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.

Proverbs 3:9 (KJV)

Benediction

Speak the blessing over the congregation rather than praying it — the biblical pattern is a word given to the people, not a request made on their behalf.

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26 (KJV)

Bulletin inserts — cut along the dashed lines

Photocopy this page, cut on the dashed borders, and slip one into every bulletin or visitor pack. Free to reproduce for church use.

BULLETIN INSERT 1 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

A grace for the table

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 107:1 (KJV)

Before the meal, read Psalm 107:1 aloud and let every person at the table name one specific mercy from this year. Specific thanks lasts longer than general thanks.

BULLETIN INSERT 2 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

A verse for the week

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

Paul says in every thing give thanks — not for every thing. You are not asked to be glad about the hard year. You are asked to find God in it and thank him there.

Service planning notes

Fill this in on the Thursday before and hand a copy to the musicians, the reader, and the sound desk.

Preacher

Sermon title and text

Reader / liturgist

Hymns

Communion / ordinance

Announcements

Notes

More free KJV resources for Sunday at biblesundays.com/sunday — sermon series plans, printables, hymn texts, and free Bible widgets for your church website.