



REFLECTIONS

November 19, 2017

**Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.**

Psalm 100:1, 4

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we come to you in thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life. The harshness of our fallen world seeks to conceal the beauty it holds, the gifts you bestowed, and your love through its creation.

We thank you for all of creation where, in a perfect place called Eden, human life began, where every day was perfect, and evil's presence unknown. We thank you that every person has been so fearfully and wonderfully made, each blessed with the ability to choose the way they travel through earth in their time; and even to choose selfish pathways that lead to places they should not go. We give you thanks for the human mind, the abilities to discover the intricacies of your creation, and to use those discoveries to try to make life better for those whose lives will follow.

We give thanks that you made each person different in appearance, different in ability, different in the experiences of life. The differences give us those who choose to serve to defend our country, our freedom and beliefs; first responders who come to our rescue, medical professionals who restore our health, artists who use their talents to create beauty, story tellers whose fictions entertain, and histories keep our past alive.

We thank you for our families and friends, for the heritage of those who came before us, for the sacrifices they made that our lives may be better because they were here. And we thank you for our children who bless our lives with joy.

We thank you for the pleasures we find in material things, even when you know of their lure to draw us away from the path you would have us travel. Yet, you knew evil would be unveiled leading us to choose poorly, and spread sinfulness through the earth.

Gracious Father, we give thanks for your goodness and love that endures forever; and for your faithfulness that continues through all generations. So, at this special time, wherever we are and whatever our circumstances may be, we bow in thanksgiving for your love so deep, so high, and so wide that you sacrificed your only son, that whoever believed in him would have life everlasting in your holy presence.

For it is in his name, the name above all names, the name of Jesus that we pray.

Amen

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

www.reflectingthesavior.org.