



REFLECTIONS

November 22, 2020, Adapted from the Archives of November 21, 2010

**Praise the Lord.
How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!**

Psalms 147:1

Thanksgiving Prayer

Loving God, we pause this day to praise you and to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Too often we allow them to be overshadowed by the troubles in this world. And too often our attention focuses on our own pains or selfish desires. But we come to you today in humble thanksgiving for the blessings you have given.

We thank you for life itself, for our very being, the gift of people to love and to love us, and most of all the showers of blessings raining from your love for us.

We thank you for all that is yet to come. Even with the hardships and pain we may face, you bless us by using our lives as examples for the loved ones who surround us; and you bless us with strength to endure those difficult days.

Gracious God, we thank you for our world—the shapes and colors that paint its beauty, for sounds that broadcast the sounds of life around us, and for the fragrances that make us hunger for the life you gave us.

Even in unsettled times, we are blessed by life in this country. We thank you for the communities we live in, the friends we enjoy, and for all of those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. We give you thanks for police forces and firefighters that keep us safe, and for those providing healthcare services that keep us well. We so often take them all for granted.

Memories are among the blessings of today. They remind us of good times blessed with smiles, and of trying times that blessed us with strength and growth. We remember the blessings of those who have gone before us; and we will be further blessed by whatever may lie ahead. And we are blessed by the oft forgotten gift of life today.

We pray today in the precious name of Jesus the Christ, the greatest blessing of all. The sacrifice of his body and blood washed away our wrongs and blessed us with life everlasting. Now, in grateful praise to you our Loving God, we offer this Thanksgiving prayer.

Amen.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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