



In Thanksgiving For God's Bounty

Set an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, a globe to represent the missions, and a World Mission Rosary which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

Leader: We gather today to thank God for His many gifts. Archbishop James Odongo, the former Archbishop of Tororo, Uganda, encourages people to use a simple thanksgiving prayer before every task we do. It is one we all know well—in fact one of the first prayers we learn. Most of us consider it “Grace Before A Meal”. His idea is since everything we experience in life is a gift from God, we can rightly say this simple prayer before each task in our lives.

Reader 1: The Meriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word “bounty” as something that is given generously. As we listen to the reading, let us remind ourselves of the many people and things in our lives that can be considered a “bounty” from God.

Reader 2: *A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah*

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord. The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks Be to God.

Reader 1: Just as the people of the Old Testament were called to rejoice in God's bounty, we, too, are called to give thanks for His goodness wherever we find it. We also remember, in prayer, those with whom we are called to share His gifts.

Reader 2: For the food that nourishes us, the farmers who grow it, and the workers in stores who sell it, we give thanks. We remember that all children do not have access to such a variety of food as we pray:

ALL: Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts, which we are about to receive from Your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader 1: Our homes, large or small, and the people with whom we share them are blessings. We are grateful for them. We remember that all children do not have the gift of a loving, safe place to live and sleep as we pray:

ALL: Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts, which we are about to receive from Your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader 2: Each day we are blessed by our school where we can learn to be the people whom God intends us to be. We appreciate the chance to learn as well as the people who use their gifts to teach us. We remember the many children who cannot achieve their potential because of a lack of education as we pray:

ALL: Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts, which we are about to receive from Your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader 1: We are given the gift of free time, Lord. We have time to relax, to play, to enjoy Your gift of nature or to read a book. We know that many children must spend all their time working in order to help their families survive. We remember those children who miss the daily chance to have fun as we pray:

ALL: Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts, which we are about to receive from Your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader 2: As we enter this month of Thanksgiving in our country, we ask God to give us the grace to be mindful of all the blessings we have received from His bounty: our homes, families and friends, schools and teachers, and the food we eat. We are most grateful that our faith in Him teaches us to love one another and to share His blessings with those who have less.

Closing Song: Now Thank We All Our God