

Every Perfect Gift

Thanksgiving Day: The Gift of Blessing

We live wonderful lives. This is as much a practical statement as it is a theological one. I am not suggesting, by any means, that we do not suffer, that everyone lives with the same opportunity or freedom, or that we do not have personal and societal trials that we must endure. We all suffer, we all participate or live in systems of oppression, we all have hard times. But in the cosmic scale of time and place, our lives are full of moments of connection, tears of joy, kindnesses from others, occasions of celebration. We are rich with blessings.

Thanksgiving Day is a day to recognize the blessings we share, no matter the simplicity of our table, or who is gathered or not gathered around it. Matthew's Gospel reminds us that no amount of regret or worry can add to our lives, today is not a day to enumerate unfulfilled wishes. It is a day to consider how God takes care of us. Jesus invites us to consider the sparrow, the grass, the lilies – all who live their lives giving glory to their Creator without anxiety about accumulating or adorning. We, like those lilies, grasses, and birds receive blessing out of proportion with our input. We are blessed because we are God's, created to love and to be loved.

Is the gravy lumpy this year? Did the Detroit Lions lose their annual game? Are the sweaters that Mom makes us wear to dinner today itchy? Worry not. You are richly blessed. You who gather in body or in spirit share a meal and good conversation. You are loved by an audacious God who cares for you without measure or equal. After the meal, as you contemplate a second slice of pie, I invite you to reflect on how you might love as abundantly as God does. How might you ease the anxiety of others, sharing from your abundance? How may you be a blessing to others as God has blessed you? | tens.org



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Does your Thanksgiving Tradition include a time to reflect on the blessings you have received in the year? If it doesn't, what would it be like to incorporate such a practice in the ritual of your meal?

