THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

Be a gardener. Dig a ditch, toil and sweat, and turn the earth upside down and seek the deepness and water the plants in time. Continue this labor and make sweet floods to run and noble and abundant fruits to spring. Take this food and drink and carry it to God as your true worship.[1]

A Thanksgiving Litany

For the rain that tickles our nose, the sun that brightens our eye, and snow for the making of angels,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For icy branches clacking in winter's winds and burgeoning buds that reveal quick in death,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For spring shyly peeking forth before bursting into full riot of color,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the great green growing earth fragrant with fecundity, for sun-ripening peaches, fresh sweet corn, and tomatoes straight from the vine,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the crisp chill of sweater-weather worn over the tang of apple cider, for crackling fires that draw us close,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For all your earthly providence,
We give you thanks and praise.

For the joys of human life: for the mystery of birth made from love and the wide eyed wonder of babies toddling in giggles of joy,
Thank you, Lord.

For children who share ice cream with dogs and sandwiches with those who need a friend,
Thank you, Lord.

For teens reaching toward responsibility while hugging stuffed animals,
Thank you, Lord.

For the loyalty of friends who always have time to talk, and for long conversations about what really matters,
Thank you, Lord.

For the church that proclaims your goodness and claims us as its own through Jesus Christ

[1] Julian of Norwich, in *Earth Prayers from around the World*, eds. Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon (New York: Harper Collins, 1991), 305.

Thank you, Lord.

For your River of Life that flows through our lives, baptizing us with resurrection "do-overs" in streams of mercy new every morning,
Thank you, Lord.

For learning that stokes curiosity and vocations that serve your purposes in the world in both great and small ways,
Thank you, Lord.

For those who serve the public good in accord with your desire for love, healing, peace, and justice in the world—for wise leaders and those who practice peace even in the midst of war, for those who heal bodies and bodies politic, for those who remove our waste and those who work against pollution
Thank you, Lord.

For the comfort and thrill of love's touch, for two lives made one in marriage, and the extension of family ties that hold us close in care
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For your provision to us so that we can extend your provision to the world.
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For bodies that work in ways too wondrous for our understanding, which we appreciate more as more things go wrong with the passing ache of years,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For your brooding presence as we settle down into death's down, and for those who care for our going out and our coming in,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For your breath of life coursing through the universe
All *(singing the end of "For the Beauty of the Earth" PH 473)***:**
Lord, of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise. [tls]

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord who is good.
God's love is everlasting.
Come, let us praise God joyfully.
Let us come to God with thanksgiving.
For the good world;
for things great and small, beautiful and awesome;
for seen and unseen splendors;
Thank you, God.
For human life;
for talking and moving and thinking together;
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

Thank you, God.
For work to do and strength to work;
for the comradeship of labor;
for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;
Thank you, God.
For marriage;
for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;
for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared;
for secrets kept in love;
Thank you, God.
For family;
for living together and eating together;
for family amusements and family pleasures;
Thank you, God.
For children;
for their energy and curiosity;
for their brave play and startling frankness;
for their sudden sympathies;
Thank you, God.
For the young;
for their high hopes;
for their irreverence toward worn-out values;
for their search for freedom;
for their solemn vows;
Thank you, God.
For growing up and growing old;
for wisdom deepened by experience;
for rest in leisure;
and for time made precious by its passing;
Thank you, God.
For your help in times of doubt and sorrow;
for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger;
Thank you, God.
For the church into which we have been called;
for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;
for our life together in the Lord;
We praise you, God.
For your Holy Spirit,
who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship;
We praise you, God.
Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;
for our hope in him;
and for the joy of serving him;
We thank and praise you, Eternal God,
for all your goodness to us.
Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

God's love is everlasting .[2]

O God, our Provider, you open your hand and lavish good gifts upon us. So we give you thanks. You create the beauty of the earth and stock it with abundance to sustain human life. You give us friends who share the journey of our lives; family who make us laugh with joy and dry our tears of sorrow; strangers who minister to our needs with generous kindness. You knit us into your larger family called church to encourage us in your Way. You have blessed us with the freedoms of a great nation. "Thank you" seems insufficient for all your blessings, yet we say it with all we are as an offering of gratitude for our many blessings that we name before you. {Enumerate all you're thankful for; count your blessings}. Though we may have seen our fortunes fall this year, we praise you for hiding our treasure in Jesus Christ our Lord, whom not even death can destroy. Though we miss those whose places sit empty at this year's table, we give you thanks for lending them to us for what time we had. For all your providence with the feast of life that you set before us, we give ourselves to you with all we are in thanks and praise. Amen. [tls]

[2] "A Litany of Thanksgiving," *Book of Common Worship,* 792-93.