



Head of School Letter

And in that day you will say: "Praise the Lord, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth." (Isaiah 12:4-5, NKJV)

As Thanksgiving approaches, let us review George Washington's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation in 1789. Note all the bolded references to God!

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of **Almighty God**, to obey **His will**, to be grateful for **His benefits**, and humbly to implore **His protection** and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of **Almighty God**, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that **great and glorious Being** who is the **beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be**; that we may then all unite in rendering unto **Him** our sincere and humble thanks for **His kind care and protection** of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of **His providence** in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and **various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us**.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to **the great Lord and Ruler of Nations**, and beseech **Him** to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as **He** alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October, A. D. 1789.