

# United Intergenerational Ministry

## SS52 Thanksgiving Worship



### "Falling Down In Thanks and Praise"

- Based on Luke 17:16 And he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.
- Scripture Base: Deuteronomy. 8:1–10; Psalm 67; Philipians. 4:6–20; and Luke 17:11-19

**Objective:** Share how giving God thanks and praise for Christ and every blessing gives us thankful hearts people see that help grow His Church on earth and in our congregation.

## Worship Leader's Guide

### Preparations:

- **For a copy-ready Worship Bulletin:** Print the bulletin from the Adobe (.pdf) file provided. Copy the cover and back page back to back with pages 1 and 4. Fold in half to make your bulletin. Copy and print pages 2 and 3 as a half page and insert this half page into your folded bulletin.
- **For a Tailored Bulletin** You also have permission of cut and paste from the Adobe file provided to tailor your bulletin to your needs.
- **For Interactive Lesson for All Generations:** You will need one easy to blow up balloon for the leader.

**Opening Hymn:** To include children and keep them listening to this hymn, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse specifically so that children can sing it one more time along with the congregation for emphasis. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase so they can listen for it and repeat it. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn as it is sung so all can be blessed by the message.

**"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" LSB 394/ TLH 134/ LW 88**

**Opening Thanks and Praise:** Can be read in a traditional style responsively. To include children and those with sight or reading challenges, ask them to repeat the responses. This kind of repetition increases participation of all generations and helps children enjoy worship and be enjoyed in worship. Words are printed for the hearing impaired, but with their permission, point to the words so they will know with what words and when they should respond to help them participate.

**\* Denotes words children and those with other challenges may repeat.**

Leader: We lift hearts of thankfulness and praise to You, O God.

**Male: Father, we adore You.\***

Leader: We humbly bow in thankfulness to You, O Christ.

**Female: Jesus, we adore You.\***

Leader: Holy Spirit, overflow our souls with thanks and praise!

ALL Generations: **Spirit, we adore You.\***

**Confession:** The worship leader should read the petitions. Practice the response before you begin to help children and those with vision or reading challenges learn it and remind those sitting near children to help them respond to keep them involved. Remind those sitting near the hearing challenged to point to the response when it should be said to help them participate in worship.

Response: **We thank and praise You for our forgiveness through Christ.**

**Petition:** We fail to hear and read Your Word that fills us with thankfulness and praise. **Response**

**Petition:** We do not come to Your House to thank and praise You in worship. **Response**

**Petition:** Therefore, we do not have thankful hearts that help grow Your Church. **Response**

**Petition:** We are not always thankful in every circumstance or in all we say and do. **Response**

**Absolution:** If this absolution is being spoken by someone other than a pastor, omit the last sentence in the brackets. Pastors may omit the last sentence in this absolution.

**Leader:** Through faith in Christ, all who confess their sins are forgiven and saved. This gives forgiven sinners cause to thank and praise the Lord who will give them thankful hearts. For this reason, as a fellow servant of Christ the crucified and one redeemed through God's grace and mercy, I can declare to you that all our sins are forgiven. [As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.]

**Leader:** And all God's children say: **All Generations: Amen.**

**Psalm of Praise: Adapted from Psalm 67.** Worship Leader reads all the leader lines or include all generations by asking volunteer(s) of all ages to read. To help those who cannot read well or at all participate, read a few words of a line to them at a time so they can repeat the words after you. Practice the response before you begin to help children and those with vision or reading challenges learn it and remind those sitting near children to encourage them respond to keep them involved. Remind those sitting near the hearing challenged to point to the response when it should be said to help them participate in worship.

**Response:** Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

**Leader:** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us. **Response**

**Leader:** Let Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations. **Response**

**Leader:** The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. **Response**

**Leader:** God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him! **Response**

Interactive Lesson FOR ALL GENERATIONS: **"Thankful In All Circumstances"**

Based on: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

You Will Need: One easy to blow up balloon for the leader. Giving each child a balloon can be dangerous.

**INSTRUCTIONS :** If you have children present, invite them to come forward to help them participate in Worship, but present this Interactive Lesson even if you do not have children present. UIM Interactive Lessons are for all generations. As you present this lesson, speak to the children if they are present and also bring the entire congregation into your conversation.

- Say: "Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate all of the things we're thankful for. Who can share one thing you are thankful for?" *Each time someone names something, add a puff of air to your balloon.*
- After everyone has had a turn, or your balloon is filled with air, say: "Wait, wait! In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, God's Word tells us to give thanks in all circumstances. How many of us are thankful for "Getting sick" or "Having our car break down?"
- Add: Hmmm, I'm not sure I can add air for bad things. When good things happen we're all full of praise—like our balloon is now. But when bad things happen, it's more like this. Release your balloon and let it fly everywhere and land deflated.

- Pick up the deflated balloon and say: It's hard to be thankful in every circumstance. Thankfully, this service is about inflating and inspiring thankful hearts deep inside us because our thankful hearts thank and praise God in every circumstance. And when people like the thankfulness they see in our hearts and want what we have, they can be drawn to Jesus, to His Church, and to our congregation.

**Options for Readings:**

- *Option 1:* Worship Leader reads all readings.
- *Option 2:* Invite different generations to read the first two readings during the service. Always have the Worship Leader read the Gospel to give it reverent significance. Remember, you can help very young readers by reading words to them that they can repeat after you.
- *Option 3:* Invite all generations to repeat the words of the first two readings a few words at a time in unison to include all generations, especially children

Note: Always remind readers to state chapter and verse after every reading to teach generations where these passages are located so they can use them in their times of need.

**Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 8:3**

And [the Lord] humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

**Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:6-7**

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Vignette to the Gospel: "Thankfulness From the Fullness of Christ" John 1:16**

Invite children to listen as a story is told to keep them involved.

There are two options for presenting these drama readings:

- Ask two volunteers to practice this drama ahead of time and present it as a Chancel Drama: Turn lights off to bring characters onstage. Turn lights on to present the drama. Turn lights off to exit characters. Turn lights on for the reading of the Gospel.
- To read this drama as a responsive reading, Generations may read "Reader 1" parts in unison and the Worship Leader may read the "Reader 2" parts.
- Share how important it is to read all parts "dramatically."

Reader 1:	From the fullness of Christ, the Word who became flesh (John 1:14), we have all received, grace upon grace, one blessing after another.(John 1:16).
Reader 2:	We have much to be thankful for.
Reader 1:	But we don't always feel thankful.
Reader 2:	Thankfulness is not a feeling. It's an action.
Reader 1:	Do you mean if we act thankful, we will feel thankful?
Reader 2:	Yes, but only in our minds. Faith gives us thankful hearts in our souls.
Reader 1:	We have faith. We still don't always feel thankful.
Reader 2:	That's why we need to strengthen our faith through God's Word and Sacraments and as we pray.
Reader 1:	So, we need to strengthen our faith to be thankful for all God has and continues to do for us?
Reader: 2	No exactly. We need to partake of God's Word and Sacraments and pray. It is God 's Holy Spirit who matures our faith <i>to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ</i> ,(Ephesians 4:13) and with the fullness of Christ comes a thankful heart deep in our souls.

The Gospel Reading: Ask generations to stand out of reverence (1) for words that our Lord actually said when He walked on earth or (2) for words that were said about Him. *Option:* For deeper effect, process with a cross to the middle of the center aisle and read the Gospel.

Read Luke 17:17-19:

17 Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

**Sermon Hymn:** To include children, invite and encourage those sitting near them to help them sing the alleluias that are repeated in each verse. This and any kind of repetition in worship can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn as it is sung and be blessed by the message.

**"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" LSB 793**

TLH and LW may print this public domain text and tune

### UIM Sermon: "Which Leper Am I?"

Based on: Luke 17:16 - And he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

**Introduction:** What is most wonderful about UIM Worship is how it very intentionally welcomes every generation through participation and that it can involve all generations. For example, invite every generation to listen for the worship leader to say: **"We should all ask ourselves,"** and respond with the words: **"Which leper am I?"** This response is also the title of the sermon to make it easy to remember. While the visually impaired will be able to listen without reminder, you will always want to specifically remind children to listen for the worship leader to say the words above and remind those around them to help children say the response to keep them involved. If the deaf and hearing impaired have printed copies of the sermon (or of this outline), ask those seated near them (or the person they bring to sign for them) to cue them to say the response for generations so they can respond right along with everyone else! If you are uncomfortable with having worshipers respond or would like to ask for a response for some sermons and not others to add variety and meet the needs of those who may like one or the other, you may omit the response; but do try to make the response part of your sermon by saying it yourself for stronger emphasis and effect.

I. As Jesus was traveling, a group of ten men with leprosy met Him. For these men, even to be seen in public was dangerous. It would have been unthinkable to expect or hope Jesus would even come near them, much less heal them. Yet, acting in what must have been the "mature faith" we heard about in our Vignette to the Gospel, they took Jesus at His word and were healed. Nine of those who were healed did not return to thank Jesus for what He had done. Before we condemn them, though, we must each ask ourselves, "Have I ever forgotten to give thanks to God?" I have faith, but I know I have forgotten to thank God more times than I care to admit. While our Sermon Text is speaking about the one leper who did return to give thanks, as sinners, we tend to be more like the nine who did not return to give thanks. In fact, returning to give thanks is one of the major problems we see when we begin any church growth efforts. God blesses us and all people continually with grace upon grace, one blessing after another, as our Vignette to the Gospel reminded us. Yet, we and so many others continually fail to thank God for all the blessings He gives us. Unthankfulness is a fact of life and of sin. Until I wrote this Sermon, I actually never thought about which leper I would be. Have you ever wondered? Because the answer can give valuable insights into our faith and thankful hearts, I think

**Leader:** We should all ask ourselves, **Generations: Which leper am I?**

II. First of all, the answer may not be what we are all thinking it should be. All ten lepers were healed and they all had faith. Remember, they believed and they were healed. Perhaps the nine were grateful but they simply chose not to return and express their gratitude. Maybe they thought “I’ll make sure that the next time I see Jesus I will thank Him.” The nine surely had people to see and things to do after they were healed. They probably wanted to thank Jesus – just later. Have you ever thought “I need to write a thank you note,” but then you forgot? It’s easy to put off saying, “Thanks!” Thankfulness isn’t a feeling like joy that just comes upon us. It is an act that does not happen easily in self-absorbed sinful human beings. It requires a conscience decision and action to remember to say or to show thanks. Faith can help us do all of the above, but even faith requires action. Without works faith is dead ( James 2:17). Faith causes us to act in all of the ways that please God and that includes giving Him thanks and praise with thankful hearts. And faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17). As we draw close to God in His Word and in His House, He will draw close to us (James 4:8), and by the washing of water with the word (Ephesians 5:26), He will cleanse our souls. His presence in Water and the Word and His forgiveness through Christ not only gives us reason to praise Him, but also fills our hearts and souls with thankfulness. Thankful hearts not only remember to thank God and others, they await and delight in every opportunity to do so. Thankful hearts are far too grateful to be forgetful or too busy. In all honesty, if we truly understand God’s grace upon grace (John 1:16 from our Vignette to the Gospel), and fail to be thankful in any circumstance we need to take a deep look at ourselves, and for our own understanding of why we fail

**Leader:** We should all ask ourselves, **Generations: Which leper am I?**

III. Now, we all probably would like to be the leper who returned to give thanks because that leper “looks good.” But looking good is not what this Sermon is all about. This Sermon is about desiring to be the leper who returned and understand why we can’t be that leper, not all the time anyway. To be truthful, the “looking good” part isn’t irrelevant. People do need to see Jesus, the “good” in us. We just need to do more than “look” thankful. We must be thankful in our hearts. Because when people see thankfulness to God in our hearts and souls, it affects them in positive spiritual ways. And as we study God’s Word, pray, and Worship Him in church every week, it affects our souls. It increases our thankfulness. When people want to know what makes us that way or more correctly “Who” makes us that way, we can tell them about Jesus. That’s how people learn about Jesus. That’s how God’s Church grows on earth and in our congregation. Together, all thankful Christian hearts become an enormous blessing to an increasingly unthankful world. This is why, if we cannot be the leper who returned to give thanks, we need to keep trying. We also need to realize that even the strongest Christians can forget or neglect to be thankful. Some lose their thankful hearts for a time as the result of difficult circumstances. The nine lepers may not have returned to thank Jesus because they simply had forgotten how to be thankful. After all, what does a leper have to be thankful for? The hearts of those who only see tragedies in life and not triumphs can turn cold. Again, this is where God’s Word comes to our aid. It not only teaches but strengthens us to give thanks at all times and in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18) as our Interactive Lesson taught us to be. Still, it’s hard to be thankful when our days are all filled with trouble and pain. This is exactly why we need to read and be uplifted by passages in God’s Word like our Epistle Reading: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* And if trials overtake us, our Old Testament Reading helps us remember that these may come to humble us and turn us to God so that we may live *by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.* So, now we know that turning to God in prayer and to His Word and coming to Worship Him in His House help and strength us to be thankful. But the question remains, “Even if we seek to do all of these things, can we be thankful in all circumstances?” Because it is important for every believer to know the answer,

**Leader:** We should all ask ourselves, **Generations: Which leper am I?**

IV. The closer and more deeply we look at ourselves, at our sinfulness, the more quickly we will see that all of us were once lepers lost hopelessly in sin. We have been and will continue to be every one of those lepers who did not return at different times in our faith and lives. The one leper who returned recognized that what had happened to him was a gift he had not earned. He understood how bad his disease really was and how great the gift of healing was that Jesus had given. He remembered and he returned to give thanks. How about everyone here today? It's Thanksgiving! Maybe you have a long list of things to be thankful for. Maybe you have been going through a difficult time and are having a hard time giving thanks. Whatever the case, we are called as Christians to live a life of thanksgiving, to have thankful hearts, and "Thanksgiving" gives us a chance to become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17) - to be more like Jesus - to be filled with Jesus and, by God's power not our own, to start giving thanks and praise to Him who gives us every good and perfect gift from above, especially Jesus (James 1:17). There is no better way to become the leper who returned, but because we will continue to fail, we all must keep trying and throughout every day God gives us,

**Leader:** We should all ask ourselves: **Generations: Which leper am I?**

**Leader:** As we partake of God's Word and Sacraments and pray, God 's Holy Spirit will mature our faith *to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*, (Ephesians 4:13). Then, with the fullness of Christ comes a thankful heart deep in our souls. Not only will we become by God's power the leper who returned to give thanks, we will become fully equipped to grow God's Church on earth and in our congregation.

**Leader:** God grant thankful hearts deep in our souls to grow in each one of us inside and outside for the world to see. Then when they ask us how we came to be so very thankful we can tell them all about Jesus. Amen.

Sermon UIM Song of Response: **"Thankfulness Comes From Above"**

Sung to the tune of "Take My Life and Let It Be!" LSB 783/ TLH 400 / LW 404 *Public Domain Tune/*  
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1. Thankfulness comes from above To us through our God of love.  
As we draw nearer to Him, He gives thankful hearts within.
2. We thank God and praise Him too Through all that we say and do  
So people will want to come To Him through faith in His Son.

Offering:

**Prayer for the Day:** You may use the following prayer petitions provided or your own prayers. The words to the prayer do not need to be printed in your bulletin. Do print the response if you choose to use it. Responses generate the participation of all generations. However, using responses some weeks and not other weeks can add variety and also meet both the needs of those who like responses and those who prefer not to say responses. If possible, pass out a printed copy of your prayers for those who cannot hear well or at all to read. This will help them participate and feel included in worship. Be sure to practice the response before you begin and remind those sitting near them to help especially children respond and also to point to responses for those with hearing challenges to help them participate. Conclude your prayers with the Lord's Prayer unless it is part of your communion liturgy.

**REFRAIN:** **Leader:** Hear our prayer.  
**Generations:** Make us thankful, Lord we pray; help us praise You every day.

<b>Leader:</b>	Lord, it's hard being thankful when The world is filled with ungratefulness.	<b>Refrain</b>
<b>Leader:</b>	When we are suffering and in pain, It's hard to be thankful again and again.	<b>Refrain</b>
<b>Leader:</b>	When we're busy and we forget, Not being thankful, help us regret.	<b>Refrain</b>
<b>Leader:</b>	Open our hearts and help us see What a great blessing being thankful can be.	<b>Refrain</b>
<b>Leader:</b>	Let thankfulness become our lifestyle So all can see our thankfulness and smile.	<b>Refrain</b>

**Leader:** For Your blessings help us give thanks In every situation and circumstance. **Refrain**  
*[Add specific intercessions for your congregation here]*

Leader: All these things we lay at Your throne, trusting that You hear and will answer...  
[as we boldly say: **AMEN!**]

*Or if you are not celebrating Holy Communion:*

[ as we join together in praying the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray: “Our Father....”]

*[Holy Communion may be celebrated according to custom.]*

Note: You may choose a Communion Hymn and skip the hymn below/ or use the hymn below.

The Benediction:

May thankfulness and praise of our God and for our God  
be in our hearts as we leave this place, and may our souls be strengthened in faith through  
the Holy Spirit to act in ways that will affect us and others spiritually and  
grow God’s Church on earth and in our congregation.

Closing Hymn: To include children and keep them listening to this hymn, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse specifically so that children can sing it one more time along with the congregation for emphasis. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase so they can listen for it and repeat it. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn as it is sung so all can be blessed by the message.

**“Now Thank We All Our God ”** LSB 895/ TLH 36/ LW 443

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