



# Many Thanksgivings to God

*muchas gracias a Dios*

많은 감사로 말미암아 넘쳤느니라

## Dedication Service

BY REV. SHONDA GALLOWAY

### Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 118)

One: O give thanks to the LORD. Our God is good.

**All: The steadfast love of the LORD endures forever!**

One: The Holy One is my strength and my might;

**All: and has become my salvation.**

One: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD!**

### Hymn Suggestion

"Give Thanks" (GtG 647)

### Scripture

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

—2 Corinthians 9:11–12

### Meditation

This scripture passage from Paul to the people of Corinth provides us with a helpful guide to giving generously. We must give in a way that honors God, plain and simple.

*Thanks-giving* is directed to God. Always. Everything belongs to God first. God is Provider, Supplier, Creator and Giver of every good and perfect gift—and Paul believes this to be true. Paul prays for God's blessing upon the Christians in Corinth who give. He prays for the people and hopes that as they receive, they are more able to give. And all of this is done to glorify and honor God!

As siblings in Christ, we believe in prayer. We also believe in giving and gratitude. We cherish opportunities to encourage one another, and to supply the needs of the saints, don't we? Obviously we do because last year Presbyterian women gave \$270,160 to provide for Thank Offering "saints"! This speaks of the generosity of hearts this day. A tangible, genuine example of people everywhere seeking to express our many thanks to God.



My Mom used to say to her ornery teenagers, “the more you have the more you want!” Whereas Paul affirms that the more we have, the more we have to give, the more evidence of a right standing with God. God gives us a Spirit of loving-kindness, of generosity and thankfulness. That is true. God’s very nature is love, pure and simple. Truly we are blessed to be a blessing!

Thankfulness expresses itself in generosity, helping others in need. Responding in gratitude restores faith in people, and shows that loving-kindness is alive, not dead. Kindness is contagious and catching, and points people to God.

What we really need in this life is more connection with our sisters and brothers versus more division—and generosity is an essential step to this unity! Friends, we have so many opportunities to bless each other. Expressions of gratitude may appear as helping others, volunteering our time and talents, a few kind words and blessed assurance that love and kindness and manners are still alive and well. Our prayers and financial support of PW’s Thank Offering is an expression of thanksgiving to God and a blessing to the ministries and programs that build up communities and transform lives.

Affirming and restoring faith in the One who is the inventor of thanksgiving, working together for God’s goodness; we do all this for God’s glory. As we read in the Westminster Shorter Catechism, the chief end of everyone is to glorify God and enjoy God forever! Our prayers, our thanksgivings go up to God. And God is glorified.

May the 2024 PW Thank Offering inspire us as we continue to encourage one another to do good work. Thanks be to God!

*Hymn Suggestion*  
“Seek Ye First” (GtG 175)



"WHAT WE REALLY NEED IN THIS LIFE  
IS MORE CONNECTION  
WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS  
VERSUS MORE DIVISION...—UNITY!"

### *Prayer of Dedication*

Glorious and awesome God, we desire to be good stewards of your generosity. Help us to be faithful and wise with your abundant grace. We yearn to serve you with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. We seek to glorify and honor you. Always! Please, bless these Thank Offerings and as you utilize the gifts, utilize also the givers as well as the recipients. We dedicate all we have and all we are, asking that these small acts of a big faith continue to encourage, to do the good work you have for us to do. We are blessed to be a blessing, in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

### *Hymn Suggestions*

“In My Life (Lord, Be Glorified)” (GtG 468)

### *Benediction*

Holy and gracious God, loving in all your ways, teach us to be more like you in all we say and do.

Friends, go forth this day overflowing with many thanksgivings to God. And all of God’s people say, **Amen.**

Shonda Galloway serves as the Synod of Mid-America representative to the Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women.

Hymns marked “GtG” are from *Glory to God* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2013)

2024 THANK OFFERING  
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

