

I WILL

GIVE THANKS

TO YOU,

O Lord!



2011 PRAYER JOURNAL

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Scripture readings from the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar are adapted for use in the United States. Celebrations of solemnities, feasts, memorials, or other observances particular to your country, diocese, or parish may result in some variation.

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Dear Friend in Christ,

*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.* (Psalm 106:1)

The Bible resounds with heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving to God. In its pages prophets, psalmists, mighty kings, lowly shepherds, and even heavenly hosts of angels lift their voices in expressions of gratitude to the Lord. This year's prayer journal, *I Will Give Thanks to You, O Lord!*, invites you to add your voice to that great chorus of thanksgiving and praise.

As the Creator of all and our loving Father, God is worthy of our praise and gratitude. When we offer him prayers of thanksgiving, we acknowledge how grateful we are for his love and mercy, for his redemption from sin and eternal death, for his daily care and provision, and for the immeasurable ways he blesses us each day.

Gratitude is the only fitting response we can make to God's revelation to us of his character: gracious, merciful, steadfast in love, generous, and faithful in keeping his promises and the covenant he made with us, even when we're unfaithful to him. Thankfulness should be our disposition toward God all the time. But showing him gratitude is not only a duty to perform each day, it's also our joy and delight. God has created us for himself, and there's no better response we can make to him than to express our thanks, proclaim his goodness, and praise and magnify his name. And there's nothing better we can give him than hearts overflowing with love, gratitude, and adoration.

To encourage us to turn to the Lord with grateful hearts, this prayer journal begins each month with a selection from a great Christian writer, Church document, or Scripture verse. And throughout all twelve months of the year, you'll find inspiring words located at the top of each page. With verses from the Old and New Testaments, you'll give thanks to the Lord in the words of the ancient songwriters and heroes of Israel, echo St. Paul's hymns of thanksgiving, and pour out gratitude together with the angels before the throne of God. In quotations from

saints, Christian writers, and historic and contemporary figures, you'll find inspiring expressions of their own gratitude as well as wisdom for daily living. When possible, quotations have been selected to correspond to the feast days of the saints or special holy days and seasons in the liturgical year.

In addition, the journal provides the citations for the Mass readings for each day of the year. In 2011, the Church is following Cycle A, with the gospel readings for the Sundays in Ordinary Time taken from the Gospel of Matthew.

Keeping a prayer journal can help you remember the many reasons you have to be grateful to God. Perhaps you'd like to compose your own personal litany of blessings for which you're thankful. Noting Scripture passages that seem to "speak" directly to you can help you identify the ways in which God is bringing you to maturity in his Son, Jesus. Recording your resolutions can reinforce your commitment to respond to the word he speaks to you. Jotting down your struggles and triumphs—or your petitions and how God has answered them—provides you with a concrete reminder of God's power, faithfulness, and mercy. Using a prayer journal can help you pray on a regular basis. It's a good idea to keep the journal with your Bible, so you have it close at hand during your daily time of prayer.

As we progress through the year day by day and through this journal page by page, may we make these words of the psalmist our own:

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.*
—Psalm 57:9-10

The Word Among Us Press

ABBREVIATIONS OF BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Acts Acts of the Apostles	Jb Job	Ob Obadiah
Am Amos	Jdt Judith	Phil Philippians
Bar Baruch	Jer Jeremiah	Phlm Philemon
1 Chr	Jgs Judges	Prv Proverbs
1 Chronicles	Jl Joel	Ps Psalms
2 Chr	Jn John	1 Pt 1 Peter
2 Chronicles	1 Jn 1 John	2 Pt 2 Peter
Col Colossians	2 Jn 2 John	Rom Romans
1 Cor	3 Jn 3 John	Ru Ruth
1 Corinthians	Jon Jonah	Rv Revelation
2 Cor	Jos Joshua	Sg Song of Songs
2 Corinthians	Jude Jude	Sir Sirach
Dn Daniel	1 Kgs 1 Kings	1 Sm 1 Samuel
Dt Deuteronomy	2 Kgs 2 Kings	2 Sm 2 Samuel
Ecc Ecclesiastes	Lam Lamentations	Tb Tobit
Eph Ephesians	Lk Luke	1 Thes
Est Esther	Lv Leviticus	1 Thessalonians
Ex Exodus	Mal Malachi	2 Thes
Ez Ezekiel	1 Mc 1 Maccabees	2 Thessalonians
Ezr Ezra	2 Mc 2 Maccabees	Ti Titus
Gal Galatians	Mi Micah	1 Tm 1 Timothy
Gn Genesis	Mk Mark	2 Tm 2 Timothy
Hb Habakkuk	Mt Matthew	Wis Wisdom
Heb Hebrews	Na Nahum	Zec Zechariah
Hg Haggai	Neh Nehemiah	Zep Zephaniah
Hos Hosea	Nm Numbers	
Is Isaiah		
Jas James		

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January

*O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples!*

*Sing to him, sing praises to him,
tell of all his wonderful works!*

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

—1 CHRONICLES 16:8-10

