



The Lord be with you.

Psalm 100

¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

*² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*

³ Know that the Lord is God.

*It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

I recently read a story of a king known as “The Wise,” who reigned from 1252-1284. The story goes that it came to the ears of Alfonso, the King of Castile, León and Galicia, that the Pages in his court had been forgetting to ask God’s blessings for their daily meals. Determined to teach them a lesson, the king invited them to a banquet, which they all attended. He served the best food and the sweetest desserts, all of which the young boys ate. However, not one of them remembered to ask God’s blessing on their food or to thank him.

During the meal, a beggar entered the room, and began to eat and drink to his heart’s content. The Pages were shocked. They expected the king to order him out, but the king seemed not to notice. When the beggar got up and left, without one word of thanks, the boys couldn’t hold back their indignation. “What an ill-mannered, mean, vulgar beggar – not so much as a thank you!”

The king raised his hand and in a calm voice said “Pages, you have been more ill-mannered and more audacious than this

beggar. Every day you sit down to a meal supplied by the bounty of your heavenly Father, yet you ask not his blessing nor express to him your gratitude.”

As I read this story, I couldn't help but wonder - Do we sometimes neglect to seek God's blessing or to offer him thanks?

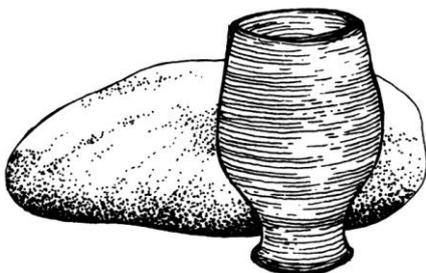
I believe that thankfulness is an amazing lens through which to view the world. When we focus on our blessings, even during difficult times, it can lift our spirits. When we realise how much we possess, we tend to be more thoughtful of those who have less.

It should be a hallmark of our Christian walk: gratitude, giving thanks, showing appreciation for all that we have and the wonderful world God has given us, because being thankful is really about being more mindful of the abundance in our lives and how we can share it with others.

The Lord, bless you and keep you, and may you know his blessing in your life. Thanks be to God.

Your minister ... *Mary*

COMMUNION SERVICE



The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at Sunday worship, 10.30am, on 2nd December.
