

***A Sermonette & Prayer for a Thanksgiving Day dinner***  
**for a hospital grief & cancer support group, November, 2019**

by Chaplain Robert Baral

On this our celebration of American Thanksgiving Day, let us recall with our Christian Pilgrim fathers beginning in 1621, and with every devout generation since, that we have been a nation most blessed by the greatest Divine Bounty and Protection that Heaven has ever given more to any people.

Not since Moses and the Israelites were led by a Pillar of His Could by day and Fire by night, to lead them from captivity to freedom...

EXODUS 13:21

The Lord preceded them, in the daytime by means of a column of cloud to show them the way, and at night by means of a column of fire to give them light. Thus they could travel both day and night.

<sup>1</sup>

Not since King David sat on the throne in Jerusalem...

I KINGS 9:5

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<sup>1</sup> NABRE, EXODUS 13:21.

[The LORD said,] I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father: There shall never be wanting someone from your line on the throne of Israel. <sup>2</sup>

Not since The Apostles beheld face to face The Glory of The Father in The Son...

JOHN 1:14

And The Word became flesh and made His Dwelling among us, and we saw His Glory, The Glory as of The Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. <sup>3</sup>

Even as we, faithful Americans down through our generations, confess daily, with every breath, our reliance in JESUS CHRIST, The One That for us

...was conceived by The HOLY SPIRIT,  
born of The Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into Hell;  
on the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of GOD The Father Almighty..., <sup>4</sup>  
Blessed be His Name forever and ever.

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<sup>2</sup> NABRE, I KINGS 9:5.

<sup>3</sup> NABRE, JOHN 1:14.

<sup>4</sup> The Apostles' Creed. Ancient Catholic Confession of Faith. Catholic Online.  
<https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=220>

After the fearful fratricidal battle of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln was moved to declare in his national Thanksgiving Day Proclamation in 1863 AD, it is “announced in The Holy Scriptures, and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose GOD is The Lord.”<sup>5</sup>

PSALM 33:12

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people chosen as His inheritance.<sup>6</sup>

Even through personal and national affliction and struggle, Divine Mercy flows all the more with Divine Peace and Blessing when we pray with humble hearts, turn from our sins, seek His face and call upon His Holy Name...

II CHRONICLES 7:14

If then My people, upon whom My Name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from Heaven and pardon their sins and heal their land.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Adapted from article, “The First Thanksgiving - The Pilgrims Landing and a National Day of Thanks.” Reverend C. Matthew McMahon, BABS, MATS, DAR, Ph.D., Th.D. A Puritan’s Mind. Retrieved 11/24/2019.

<http://www.apuritansmind.com/the-ch.../the-first-thanksgiving/>

<sup>6</sup> NABRE, PSALM 33:12.

<sup>7</sup> NABRE, II CHRONICLES 7:14.

As we again today together approach our Heavenly Father with thanksgiving, in both our trials and triumphs - both personal and national - we acknowledge our total dependence on Him to supply all our wants and needs. For only in The King of The Universe do we live, move, have our being and find our one true purpose...

ACTS 17:28

For 'In Him we live and move and have our being... <sup>8</sup>

Therefore, let us pray!

May GOD continue to extend His blessings upon us, our families and our nation, guiding us by His Kindly Providence, through The Might of His Spirit.

May He grant us patience and perseverance in both the trials and joys of our lives and this present age.

May He open the eyes of our understanding, that we may always know what is The Hope of His calling upon us, the riches of The Glory of His inheritance for us in The Saints...

EPHESIANS 1:18

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<sup>8</sup> NABRE, ACTS 17:28.

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is The Hope that belongs to His call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, <sup>9</sup>

And may we be anxious for nothing, but in all thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known to GOD. For then His Peace, which passes all human understanding, shall forever guard our hearts and minds through CHRIST JESUS our Lord...

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

6 Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to GOD.

7 Then The Peace of GOD that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in CHRIST JESUS. <sup>10</sup>

In The Name of GOD The Father, The Son and Holy Ghost.  
AMEN.

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<sup>9</sup> NABRE, EPHESIANS 1:18.

<sup>10</sup> NABRE, PHILIPPIANS 4:6:7.