Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday that occurs every fourth Thursday in November. President Lincoln declared a national day of thanksgiving and praise to our Heavenly Father during the Civil War in 1863. It has been celebrated ever since. President Washington also declared such a holiday in 1789, to give God the glory for our freedom, blessings, and His bounteous goodness. Many recognize the first Thanksgiving to have occurred after the *Mayflower* landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts. The pilgrims were blessed by a plentiful autumn harvest in 1621, during which the settlers and Native Americans shared their crops and game through feast and fellowship for three days. Technically, however, the first day for annual thanksgiving was dedicated two years earlier when the good ship *Margaret* landed in Virginia in November, 1619. They drifted up the James River and settled at a site reserved in a land grant from England, disembarking on 12/04/1619. The settlers assembled and dedicated the land, declaring a day of thanksgiving that would be observed annually in worship, thanks, and prayer to Almighty God for bringing them to their destination safely. Our Judeo-Christian nation has a lot to be thankful for, and who but God should receive our thanks?

* 1 CH 16:25,34–35 ~ Great is the Lord, and greatly should He be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. Let’s give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever. Ask God to gather His people together and deliver us from the wicked, so that we can give Him thanks and praise.
* 1 CH 23:30 ~ Give thanks and praise to the Lord every morning and every evening.
* NEH 9—10 ~ Nehemiah spoke a great prayer of worship and thanksgiving to God for bringing the Israelites back home. A written agreement was prepared binding the people in obedience to God and His rules. The leaders and priests affixed their seal to this agreement, and all the people swore an oath of allegiance to the Lord.
* PSA 95:2 ~ Let us come before God with thanksgiving; make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.
* PSA 100:4 ~ Enter into God’s gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Be thankful and bless His name.
* PSA 122:6–7 ~ Pray for peace; may those prosper who love God. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers.
* PSA 150:2,6 ~ Praise God for His mighty acts and His excellent greatness. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.
* PHP 4:6–7 ~ Don’t have anxiety about anything, but pray for everything. With thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your heart in mind in Jesus Christ.
* 2 TH 2:13 ~ We must always give thanks to God, because He has chosen you from the beginning for salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief in the truth.
* 1 TI 2:1 ~ Prayers, intercessions, and thanks should be given to God by all people.
* HEB 13:15 ~ Let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise; praise and thanks are the fruits of our lips.

Suffice it to say that there have been many occasions to give thanks to God for bringing every one of us safety through the trials and tribulations of life, not to mention the challenges this nation has encountered over the years. Therefore, we should be giving praise and thanks to God every day. But a day of national thanksgiving is appropriate given the countless times the hand of Providence lifted us up when we faced perilous times. The fact is, our nation is encountering perilous times once again, and we desperately need God’s grace and mercy as much as ever, to lift us up once again in His loving arms and save us from devastation by people who do not love this country and would like to take us down.

Hopefully, we can get people who fear God, love this country, and adhere to our Constitution to lead us. This is how we successfully made it this far. Thanksgiving Day holds a strong tradition in the USA and is based on faith and trust in our benevolent and compassionate God. That faith was the foundation of the patriarchs and is the basis for our legal and governmental systems. If our leaders and governors do not have faith, how can we have faith in them?

* DEU 1:13 ~ Take the wise men of understanding and notoriety, and make them rulers.
* JOB 11:18,20 ~ You will be confident because there is hope; you will be protected, so take rest in your safety. But the wicked will not escape; their hope will be like taking their last breath.
* JOB 34:17 ~ Shall someone who hates what is right govern others? Can a just person be condemned?
* PSA 37:3–8 ~ Trust in the Lord and do good and you will have security. Take delight in the Lord and you will receive the delights of your heart. Commit yourself to the Lord and He will vindicate you. Wait patiently for the Lord and don’t worry. Refrain from anger.
* PRO 29:2 ~ When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.
* PRO 29:26–27 ~ Many people seek favor from their rulers, but all judgment comes from God. An unjust person is disgusting to a just person; an upright person is disgusting to an evil person.
* HOS 8:4 ~ They have set up kings, but not by me; they have made princes, and I had nothing to do with it. They made idols from their silver and gold, and they will be cut off.
* 1 TI 1:8–9 ~ Laws are good if they are used lawfully. Laws are not made for the righteous, they are made for the lawless, profane, and disobedient; laws are for ungodly people and for sinners.
* JAM 4:10–12 ~ Humble yourselves before God and He will exalt you. Do not speak evil of one another or judge one another, for you will be guilty of speaking evil of the Law and of judging the Law. If you judge the Law you cannot be a doer of the Law. There is only one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy.

Praise be to you Heavenly Father for blessings too numerous to mention and gifts too numerous to count. Help us to remember that all good things come from you. Please guide and direct this land, and our people, that we may proceed on the pathway you laid which is in Christ the Lord, and in which our forefathers also walked. Help us to elect people of your choice, who will govern in accordance with your Law, and our best interest. We give thanks to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit this day. Let us remember to give thanks and praise to you every day, even forevermore, Amen.