

## **Prayer for Thanksgiving Day**

*from St. Tikhon's "Orthodox Christian Prayers", pg. 127*

Holy God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst ordain under the law a festival of in-gathering at the end of the year, who art thyself the Lord of the harvest at the end of the age: we thank thee for gathering us, as we come to the end of the year, to thank thee for all thy blessings. First we give thee thanks that thou hast made us capable of thanking thee, and so made us capable of salvation and eternal joy. Though no words are sufficient to hymn thy wonders, yet we thank thee for all the beauties of thy creation, both the invisible and angelic creation and the world of visible creation: the heavenly bodies, the elements that make up the earth, the living creatures that inhabit it, and especially our fellow man. We thank thee that through this creation thou hast given us to know thee. And we thank thee for the breath of life thou hast given us, and for the gift of time, this age in which we can repent and grow.

Holy Mighty, everlasting Son of the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, who art thyself the Sower of all good seed: we thank thee that thou hast sown in our hearts the good seed of the word. We thank thee for thy statutes and thy commandments, which thou hast delivered through thy prophets and apostles that we might live in accordance with thee. We thank thee for thy most pure Mother and all thy saints, in whom thou art present to us, and by whose prayers thou dost deliver us from difficulties, passions, and temptations. We thank thee for all of thy mysteries: thy Birth and Baptism, thine entrance into Jerusalem, thy Passion and Death upon the Cross, thy third-day Resurrection, thine Ascension into heaven and Sitting at the right hand. We thank thee for thy Second Coming, when thou shalt come again in glory. And we thank thee for thy Holy Church, thy Bride, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious Blood, and for whose sake thou shalt come again.

Holy Immortal, Spirit of God, who art thyself the Storehouse of blessings: we thank thee that thou hast stirred us up to thanksgiving for all the gifts of God in Christ Jesus. Come and abide in us and make us worthy to render thanks always, in every time and place and circumstance, both for those blessings we have been given and for those still to come. Make our prayer acceptable as we offer thanks for this holiday of thanksgiving [*and this meal of thanksgiving, for those gathered with us to celebrate*], and for all our family and our friends, for this community and this country, and for thy whole world. Help us to grow in faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ our Lord, and not to grow weary in well-doing, that the harvest of our righteousness might be enlarged, when we shall in due season reap the reward of our works, to the glory of God the Father, to whom be all honor, glory, and thanksgiving, from all and for all, with his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and with thee, O Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.