

# St. Timothy's Banner

## *Thanksgiving 2023*



Psalm 103:2 Praise the Lord O my soul, and forget not  
all His benefits.

Psalm 103:2 Praise the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

## **The Power of Praise**

**By Do Fox**

I exhort you to praise Me  
Not for my benefit,  
But for yours!  
Praise opens up the doors of your heart  
And lets the light of Life enter.  
Praise is the air of Heaven!  
Just as gravity is needed on earth  
For the creation to exist,  
So praise fills the corridors of Heaven.  
Praise and Joy join hands  
And purify all who listen.  
Praise is My Laughter  
Streaking through the universe!  
It is the language of Heaven,  
And, as the oyster contains the pearl,  
So praise is the center of My Kingdom.  
Praise sows joy, and healing,  
And overcomes the darkness of the enemy,  
Praise lifts you into the safety of My arms,  
And holds you in peace and love, always!



# Thanksgiving

By Rev Dan Endresen



It's Thanksgiving. And boy did it seem to come early this year. There has been no frost yet! All the flowers are still in full bloom alongside the colorful leaves of the trees. And with the summerlike weather that we've been having this autumn it feels way too soon to be celebrating Thanksgiving, especially for someone like me who was raised stateside. It always seems too soon in Canada, but especially this year. And we can be thankful for the warm weather as well.

The Thanksgiving holiday, of course, has to do with the harvest and thanking our Lord for supplying our sustenance in abundance. It seems Canadians want to thank the Lord at the beginning of the harvest while the Americans choose the end. Thinking about that got me curious about which is closer to the biblical feast of Sukkot, or the Feast of Booths. It turns out that Sukkot is celebrated at the end of harvest, "seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain" so there the Americans seem to be closer. But, as far as the calendar goes, the Canadians are closer, as the week-long Feast of Booths begins on the same day this year. And thinking about that, I certainly wouldn't want to spend a week in a booth at the end of November up here.

So here we are thanking God for the harvest – his provision for our physical sustenance. But, of course, we also celebrate our spiritual sustenance in what we call Eucharist often. Eucharist is Greek for Thanksgiving. If you

listen carefully to the liturgy, you will notice thanksgiving is mentioned no fewer than six times in our service. It is thanksgiving acknowledging all that God has done for us his children – especially our salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for us. Thanksgiving is our duty, but it should also be our joy, always, because, even when all seems to go wrong in this life, we still have fellowship with God through Jesus Christ for all of eternity. We are his – bought with Christ's blood. We must remember, that just as Israel was enslaved in Egypt – we too were slaves – to sin and death – and we were redeemed by Jesus, our Passover. We are to remember that rejoicing, and with a freewill offering looking forward to more blessings to come from God who loves us.

So often we forget that God is the biggest part of the equation and often believe that we are. Pride creeps in and contempt for others – even God. That is the opposite of thanksgiving. Romans 1:21 tells us that that is the problem with humanity in general. Not glorifying God and being thankful is where our world went wrong. Giving thanks to God is right. Not giving thanks to him is unrighteous. I came across a passage from Isaiah 5 recently, that says, "My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. <sup>2</sup> He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. <sup>3</sup> "And now, ... Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. <sup>4</sup> What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why

then, when I expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes”?

It goes on in verse 11: “Woe to those who rise early in the morning, *That* they may follow intoxicating drink; Who continue until night, *till* wine inflames them! <sup>12</sup> The harp and the strings, The tambourine and flute, And wine are in their feasts; But they do not regard the work of the LORD, Nor consider the operation of His hands”.

As Christians, we do take time to acknowledge and thank God. But we often take our eyes off him and onto our problems. I find it is more doubt and self-pity that we struggle with than contempt. We say, “Where are you God”? in this or that situation? “Why do you leave your dear one’s suffering”? This life is difficult, with many issues which often seem like they will overwhelm us – that’s why we must keep our focus on Jesus Christ, who, also suffered though he was God’s well-beloved Son. His suffering had a redemptive purpose, and we must also believe the same about ours if we are his. Though he died on a cross, he overcame the finality of death with resurrected life that is perfect and everlasting. And that is what we have to look forward to as well, even in the darkest of times. But we can also hold on to God in fellowship as we live and thank him for all he provides in this life too. One of those things is love – love that we receive in this life from God and others. And a love that we give to God and others – even in thanksgiving.



1 Peter 1:3b In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

## On Mercy

By Do Fox

Mercy is one of the attributes  
That I wish to see in My children.  
The Life of My Son  
Enters into you as you believe and trust  
That He is My Son, and your Saviour!  
We planned this before time began  
The evil one chose to destroy,  
And to inhabit My children,  
Turning, you against Me!  
Destruction is the fire that burns in his heart.  
But My Fire of Love, and Mercy  
Burns much more brightly!  
I desire your safety, and your heart.  
I will teach you about mercy  
Through the Love and Sacrifice of My Son.  
My mercy is soft and inviting,  
It longs to surround and fill you,  
So that My Mercy extends through you to  
others.  
My Mercy creates Holiness within you  
It is part of the Love that fills My Being.  
The whole creation is an expression of My  
Love,  
And it will be purified and transformed  
By your response to My kind of Mercy!  
Drink deeply the Love of My Son  
And your mercy will grow into Mine.  
And together we shall rejoice eternally!



## Mephibosheth. Humble and Merciful.

By Maria Oravcova



<sup>24</sup> Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, also went down to meet the king. He had not taken care of his feet or trimmed his mustache or washed his clothes from the day the king left until the day he returned safely. <sup>25</sup> When he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, the king asked him, "Why didn't you go with me, Mephibosheth?"

<sup>26</sup> He said, "My lord the king, since I your servant am lame, I said, 'I will have my donkey saddled and will ride on it, so I can go with the king.' But Ziba my servant betrayed me. <sup>27</sup> And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king. My lord the king is like an angel of God; so do whatever you wish. <sup>28</sup> All my grandfather's descendants deserved nothing but death from my lord the king, but you gave your servant a place among those who eat at your table. So what right do I have to make any more appeals to the king?"

<sup>29</sup> The king said to him, "Why say more? I order you and Ziba to divide the land." <sup>30</sup> Mephibosheth said to the king, "Let him take everything, now that my lord the king has returned home safely" (2 Samuel 19:24-30 NIV).

To be truly able to understand the passage of 2. Sam. 19: 24-30, and receive its benefit for our life's journey we have to see where was Mephibosheth coming from.

For you who are not familiar with Mephibosheth's life story, we learn from 2. Sam ch.16 that he was a son of Jonathan and grandson of king Saul. He was born into a royal lineage and would have become king. But king Saul rebelled and disobeyed God, so his children lost their right to the throne and God chose David to be Saul's successor. So Mephibosheth not only lost the right to the throne but when it was learned that Saul and Jonathan were killed by the Philistines his nurse picked him up to flee for his life. He was only 5 years old, and as she hurried to leave, she dropped him and Mephibosheth became crippled in both feet. (2. Sam. 4:4) It looked like Mephibosheth's destiny was to be forgotten – lame

and poor – riches to rags.

But there was one thing that he didn't know. His father Jonathan made a covenant with David because he knew that God was going to bless David and make him king – that he not ever cut off his kindness from his family (1. Sam. 20:14,15-16). David agreed because he loved Jonathan as himself.

One day, long after, king David remembered this covenant and inquired if there was anyone left from Saul's house that he might show them God's kindness for Jonathan's sake. When he learned about Mephibosheth, through his servant Ziba, he summoned him. Imagine Mephibosheth's fear, being Saul's grandson, and knowing that he was David's enemy. All he could have expected was death. He came trembling – prostrating himself before David. But what a turnaround of situation happened. Instead of death, Mephibosheth received not only mercy of life but the return of all his grandfather owned. He was also invited to live with the king and eat with him like one of his son's. Mephibosheth was well aware that he didn't deserve any of this as he responded: "What is your servant that you should notice a dead dog like me". What humility. From rags to riches.

But this bliss didn't last. King David had a son named Absalom who wanted to take over his father's throne by deceit and violence and for that reason king David was fleeing Jerusalem to save his own life. On the way he met Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, who had a cunning plan. He provided food and donkeys to David in the time of his deep need but also told David a lie about Mephibosheth – that the reason why he was not with him was to take over his throne. That lie brought to Mephibosheth the loss of his possessions and loss of his favor with king David. Who profited? The deceiver, Ziba, as David gave him all Mephibosheth owned.

Now we made a full circle and set the stage for our passage of scripture. David's son Absalom didn't succeed with his plot and King David returned to Jerusalem Absalom had been killed and everyone



was coming out to meet David. Mephibosheth was one of them. He is unkept as he was grieving after the king from the day David left his royal courts. In their conversation David learned that Mephibosheth was desiring to leave Jerusalem with him but he was tricked by his servant Ziba and was powerless because of his lameness.

Was Mephibosheth vindictive towards his servant Ziba when David finally found the truth? Not at all. The beauty of his character shines so strongly as he said in verse 28, “All my grandfather’s descendants deserved nothing but death from my lord the king, but you gave your servant a place among those who eat at your table. So what right do I have to make any more appeals to the king?” And that is not all. When David wants to remedy his mistake and orders Ziba to give half of the possession back to Mephibosheth, Mephibosheth answers, “Let him take everything, now that my lord the king has returned home safely (Verse 30).”

How could he manifest such a selfless, humble attitude, when from a natural point of view this was his moment – his opportunity to be rightly justified? For he did suffer unjustly. He could point a finger. He could get back at Ziba.

I believe the answer is that he was fully aware, deep down in his heart, of the king’s mercy towards him. He never forgot it. His words tell us that he was fully aware that all he deserved was death. He knew that it was not that he was anyone special that the king should give him life and invite him to sit daily at his table. David kept the covenant with Jonathan, and Mephibosheth received mercy. That is why he was exercising mercy to others.

Firstly, I see this as a picture of us, the children of God. who were shown mercy in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. We deserved death but instead through Christ’s sacrifice – the new covenant in his blood – we were given life and adopted into God’s family. Not because of any of our doings. In Titus 3:5 we read, “...he saved us not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy”.

As I mentioned earlier Mephibosheth was given life because of the covenant between his father Jonathan and David. It is the same for us. Psalm 111:9 says “He provided redemption for his people, he ordained his covenant for ever.”

Eph.2:18,19 says, “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”. Just as Mephibosheth, we can sit at God’s table and receive from him all we need for abundant life. That’s why we too ought to likewise show mercy.

Luke 6:36 “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful”

Matt 5:7, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy”.

James 2:13, “because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment”!

Eph. 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other as God forgave you”.

Luke 6:37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven”.

Secondly, I see that Mephibosheth’s priority in life was not his possessions but to be in David’s presence. When David was away in exile Mephibosheth couldn’t even take care of himself because he was so grieved. His life had meaning only when he was with David and David was on his throne.

We also need to set our priorities right. The purpose of our life should be to know God, be in his presence, and bring Him glory. Only he can truly satisfy. We can waste our life chasing satisfaction and never find it. Psalm 63:5 says, “My soul will be satisfied with you as with the riches of food”.

Hab. 3:17-19a says, “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength”.

Is. 58:11 says, “The Lord will guide you always, he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land...you will be like a well-watered garden”.

In Jerimiah 31:25, God says, “I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.

If being in God’s presence is our priority the world will notice that we are different and will enquire why. But most of all we will be pleasing to our heavenly Father because that why he created us – for His pleasure.



# The Love of Money

By Harn Yawnghwe

*The love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs (1 Timothy 6:10).*

Scripture warns us about the love of money but how many of us have heeded that warning? How many of us spend our waking hours thinking about how to make money?

I was just reflecting recently that it is tragic and a travesty that the chosen people of God, the Israelites, the Jews, are known by the world over as lovers of money, not lovers of God. Then it also struck me that Christians, the people Christ died for, are also not always known as lovers of God. Except in societies, where Christians are persecuted, Christians in general are identified with the establishment – the wealthy, the privileged, and the people who enjoy a good life.

Do not get me wrong. I am not against people living a good life. God does not want us to be miserable. Many of us also have to work hard to make ends meet. That is understood. But what I am trying to clarify is, what do we love more, money or God.

For example, when someone is in need, what is our first reaction? If I am not wrong, we tend to think, *Can I afford to help?* Scripture tells us that – *He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his deed (Proverbs 19:17)* and in Mark 12 –

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. <sup>43</sup> And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.”

So, we say that as good stewards of God’s resources, we need to carefully consider whether or not we can afford to help someone. But would that be the way that Christ wants us to think? Are we too concerned about money even if we say we do not love money? Should we be more reckless or carefree about using the money God has given us for others in need? I am not writing this to persuade you or influence your financial decisions. Since I was reminded by Scripture, I just thought I should share my thoughts with the church, and as Hebrews 13 says:

<sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never fail you nor forsake you.” <sup>6</sup> Hence we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid;  
what can man do to me?” Hebrew 13:5-6

In our BSF (Bible Study Fellowship), an around the world study of the Bible, this year we are studying the Gospel of John. In chapter 2 we see Jesus' first miracle, where He turned water into wine. In reading up about the miracle, Chuck discovered the following blog (on Bible Gateway) which he shared with the men's group. There is so much information in the blog that Do & I would like to share it with you. It adds a lot to the miracle's importance.

Barrie

## Miracle at the Wedding

By Rabbi Jason Sobel



In [John 2:1-12](#), we see Jesus (Yeshua) performing his first miracle at a wedding in Cana. The host ran out of wine, and at his mother's prompting, Jesus asked the servants to fill six water jars with water. When the master of the banquet tasted the water, it had been turned into the finest wine.

At first, this miracle may not seem too important in comparison to some of Jesus's other miracles, but Jewish weddings are something to behold. The fact that the Messiah's first miracle occurred during a wedding points to the abundance and blessing that come from our relationship with the Messiah Yeshua. His changing the water into wine was not merely a random act of kindness; rather, it reflected and metaphorically fulfilled the many Old Testament scriptures that speak of God's people, the proverbial bride, and the Bridegroom to come—Jesus himself.

Yeshua performed His first miracle at a wedding feast as a sneak preview of the ultimate wedding celebration, the messianic wedding supper of the Lamb, spoken of by the prophets and in the book of Revelation. [Revelation 19:7-8](#) says, "Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people)" (NIV). The wedding in Cana of Galilee points spiritually and prophetically to the type of relationship He wants to have with us.

The story of this miracle opens with the words, "On the third day, there was a wedding at Cana in the Galilee." The third day of the week is significant in Jewish wedding traditions. In fact, there are three parts to the Jewish wedding: the *shiddukhin* (arrangements made before the legal betrothal), *erusin* (the betrothal, also known as the period of *kiddushin*—a period of sanctification or being "set apart"), and *nissuin* (marriage).

Many Jewish people are married on the third day. If you are in Israel on the third day of the week, you're going to see many weddings taking place. The reason it's traditional is that the third day is the only day in the Creation account that God blessed twice. Doubly blessed, the third day of the week is Tuesday, and it's considered an auspicious day for weddings because "God saw that it was good" ([Genesis 1:10, 12](#)).

These weddings are often held outside in the evening, under the stars. The idea is to symbolize abundance and fruitfulness of your descendants, as God promised that Abraham's descendants would be like the stars of the sky ([Genesis 22:17](#)). The Lord brought Abram out



into the crisp desert night where the stars were shimmering like billions of diamonds against the blanket of a perfectly dark sky. Oh, what a sight that must have been—no city lights to dim the view! “Look up now, at the sky, and count the stars—if you are able to count them.’ Then He said to him, ‘So shall your seed be” ([Genesis 15:5](#)). Those descendants would eventually be from the Seed of Yeshua, which includes you and me! How does this miracle of abundance come? It comes from a relationship with the Messiah, the Bridegroom. He wants you to be doubly blessed. He wants to give you the double portion. He did his first miracle on the third day, which is a day that’s doubly good.

## The Signs and Secrets of Transformation

The miracle of turning water into wine shows us that Jesus is not only able to meet our needs but also exceed them. He is able to take the ordinary and make it extraordinary. The miracle at the wedding was officially the start of Yeshua’s public ministry, demonstrating that God was beginning to fulfill the messianic promises setting his redemption plan into motion. It makes sense that this miracle of abundance occurred at a wedding because Yeshua is the Bridegroom, and he was coming for his bride. A marriage—an eternal, covenantal relationship—is the kind of relationship God hopes to have with us as well.

The miracle of turning water into wine was a miracle of blessing, abundance, and transformation. God transformed something ordinary into something extraordinary, just as He does with us when He touches our lives and transforms us into new creations. We are turned from water into wine. The old passes away, and the new comes ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). However, this transformation is not a one-and-done thing, but rather a lifetime process of becoming. Personally, I am being transformed daily from something ordinary into something extraordinary. The old is passing away, and the new is coming into my life. I’m excited as I witness the things God is doing in me. And I’m convinced He wants to do it in your life too.

## Did You Know

Humans have more empathy for dogs than for other humans

Crocodiles have no lips, and they can hold their breath for an hour.

If the human eye was a digital camera, it would have 576 megapixels.

Most of the dust under your bed is actually your own dead skin.

Everyone has a unique smell, unique fingerprint, and a unique tongue print.

Human thigh bones are stronger than concrete.

Germany has officially abolished university fees, even for foreign students.

Rainbows only appear as a full circle when you’re in the sky, they only appear as half circles from the ground as there is no rain below you.

Cows have best friends and get stressed when they are separated.

There is a naturally occurring black rose. They only grow in one place, a small village in Turkey called Halfeti. They are only black in the summer months.

Hugs that last more than 20 seconds release chemicals in your body called “oxytocin” that make you trust someone more.

Octopuses have copper-based instead of iron-based blood which is why, their blood is blue instead of red.

25,000,000 of your cells died while you were reading this sentence.

You can survive on only potatoes and butter, which contain all the necessary nutrients that your body needs.

Tea is the most consumed drink in the world after water.

# SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS





# The Miracle of the Brain

On average, the human brain produces about 70,000 thoughts a day.

There are about 4.8 million kilometers of axons in the human brain.

The cerebellum makes up only 10 percent of the brain's volume, but it contains more than half of the neurons.

Clinically speaking, death is defined as an absence of brain activity.

Your brain is about 2 percent of your weight, but it uses 20 percent of your oxygen supply and 20 percent of your energy.

Messages travel from your brain to your muscles at about 450 kilometers per hour.

If stretched out, your cerebral cortex would be about the size of a bath mat.

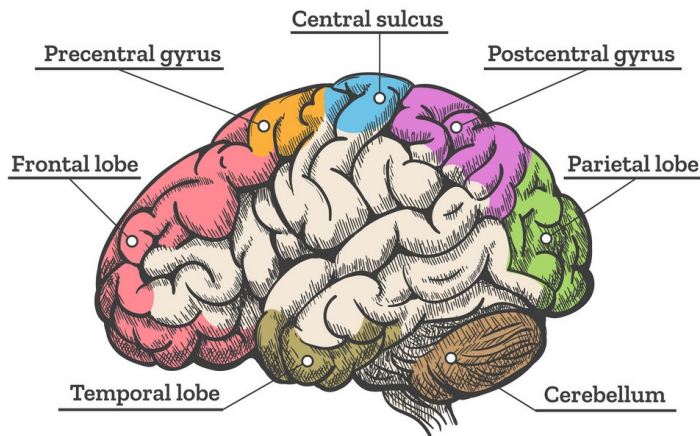
By three months of age, babies can recognize facial features.

The word "cerebellum" means "little brain" in Latin.

Of oxygen consumed by the brain, 6 percent will be used by the brain's white matter, and 94 percent by the gray matter.

IQ scores have risen approximately 20 points with every generation tested.

## Human Brain Anatomy



VectorStock®

VectorStock.com/19767394

On average men's heads are 2 percent bigger than women's heads.

The cerebral cortex is about 77% of the human's brain volume.

After age 30, the human brain shrinks by .23 percent every year.

Studies show that children's IQs drop by a few points over summer vacation.

The left hemisphere of the brain has 186 million more neurons than the right.

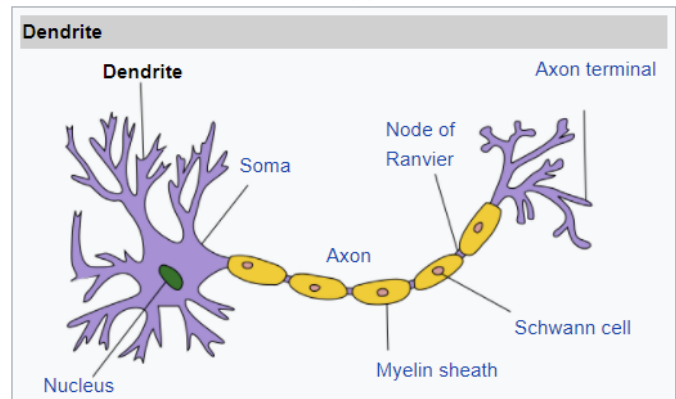
Your brain is full of nerve cells, but it has no pain receptors.

A human brain generates more electrical impulses a day than all the world's telephones.

About 30 million neurons to your brain are activated by the sight of a human face.

About 3 soda cans worth of blood flows through the brain every minute.

## Structure of a typical neuron



# Activities Page

GROUP GAME

## Thanksgiving Word Search

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18,** *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

F J P Y I G P R A Y E R S M Y S R R G E  
Y G G N G B R C H U R C H B R G E Y O K  
E L B A T O U A A G E R F E G N T L B A  
T R E S S E D U T Z R E V B N I H I B B  
Y W N C T N T F Z I L O G I I S G M L G  
Y A D S R U H T C L T R D C V S U A E A  
P H Q O M M S W O F A U E X I E A F J P  
P V C N V E O W E V I P D B G L L X E K  
R U C G V U S L Y X E G N E M B M D S V  
F D M R N H T D G S L V O N F E V P U L  
X E A P I I Y T I N U M M O C X V I S P  
H H A P K I R A J T I C E R C Q K O D I  
K F L S V I R E Z J F R H Q H T C R N P  
R X D D T P N A H R X C A R R U U W P V  
N K R Y T R A D I T I O N H I M G O I J  
T U R K E Y E E E D A R A P S S O R E I  
F N I T C N N V O R Q G C T T P T S L A  
I T L X G D Q B O I K B I I I E C H T G  
P M U A S B D W T L F C Y C A K H I W A  
Y U M V T L Q G A E K Y W Q N I U P R M

### Word Bank

AUTUMN	FEAST	GOD	LEFTOVERS	PRAISE	TRADITION
BAKE	FELLOWSHIP	GRATITUDE	LOVE	PRAYERS	TURKEY
BLESSINGS	FRIENDS	GRAVY	NAP	PUMPKIN	WORSHIP
CHRIST	GATHERING	HARVEST	NOVEMBER	SHARING	YUM
CHRISTIAN	GIVING	JESUS	PARADE	TABLE	
CHURCH	GOBBLE	LAUGHTER	PIE	THURSDAY	



# Autumn Glory

By Do Fox

Purple asters, swaying in the wind  
Of warmly loved, sunlit September,  
Crowd the winding roadside as we walk,  
And give me joy, I happily remember.

Their pretty faces turned up to the sun  
Shout hallelujah to the autumn show,  
Such delicate embroidery, finely spun  
Amazes and enthralls us as we go.

So many gems in nature's picture book  
Come to full bloom before the winter cold,  
The coloured leaves, the flowers, sunlit gems,  
That I can cuddle in when I am old.



*Have a Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

