

**Sunday, Aug. 26:**

Message Title: Transformed: Praying in a way that changes you! “Thank You”

Memory Verse & Text: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” -1 Thessalonians 5:18

Scripture: Psalm 107:1-43

Blurb: Tell God “Thank you!” We must do this in all situations: when things are going well and we have what we want, and when things are going badly, and we find little to be thankful about. This Sunday we’ll engage giving God thanks in a creative, participatory way. So, no matter what your personal situation, come ready to say “thank you” to God in many ways!

**Opening Song:** *Enough* - Sanctify

**Welcome:** -Pastor David

Those not at the “great MN get-together,” welcome to the great get-together with God!

**Memory Verse:**

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” -1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Worship Music Set:** - Sanctify

*Celebrate* (w/streamers)

*10,000 Reasons*

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Worship Prayer - Andrew

**Offering:** *Devote Yourselves* -Sanctify

St. Andrew’s Shelter Signup

**Grow Moment:** Echo

**Message:** Transformed: Praying in a way that changes your life. “Thank You.”

**Message Bumper**

**PP#1:** Transformed: Praying in a way that changes you.

“Thank you.”

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” -1 Thessalonians 5:18

Transformed: Praying in a way that changes your life. “Thank You.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18,  
“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

**PP#2:** Biblical “Pocket Prayer” Outline:

Father, You are good.  
 I need your help.  
 So do they.  
 Thank you. Amen.

This summer we’re learning to pray in a way that transforms us, our lives, our futures. Prayer is not only the lifeblood of our spiritual relationship with God, it is the most powerful miracle that God works in our lives. Through prayer, God changes us, from the inside out. When you neglect to pray, you stall in your faith. And the scary part is, when that happens, you are left facing everything on your own. Not praying is like not putting on your winter coat when you go out in zero degree weather. You can make it for a short time all right, but soon you’ll go numb, cold, and you’ll fail.

The Pocket Prayer is an outline for prayer that we can use to build our prayers. Very simple, but it names the key parts of a prayer that can change you. Let’s try this simple prayer together.

Father, you are good. I need your help. So do they. Thank you. Amen.

**PP#3:** Thank you!

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” -1 Thessalonians 5:18

Today we come to what can be the most powerful and effective part of the prayer. It is the simple act of telling God, “Thank you.”

This verse tells us two things about giving thanks. One is that it is God’s command to us. God commands us to give Him thanks. Our Heavenly Father looks at us, and says, “Say thank you!” God commands us to give thanks over 100 times in the Bible! He’s serious!

You know why? It’s not for God’s sake. It’s because *we* need it. It is only when we do, that our hearts are changed. There is something miraculous about giving thanks. It is so simple, so easy to do, but it so powerfully and effectively changes you.

It’s like taking a shower. It just gives you a whole new perspective.

It changes you because it shifts your focus; it re-grounds you, it points you in a different direction.

God knows how we are. We look on the negative. We dwell on what doesn’t go right. We see what we don’t have. We criticize, we complain, and we get down.

Stopping to give thanks is a shockingly effective antidote. When you stop to remember what has gone right, to see what all you actually do have, to consider how worse off you could be, then our problems shrink right before our eyes, and our complaints begin to look dumb.

And the second part of this verse, is that we are commanded to give thanks *in all circumstances*. We need practice on this. We need to develop the habit of seeing what is good in all the mess, training our eye to pick out the blessings that are there. Yes difficulties surround us from all sides, but so do blessings! God does not leave us to fend for ourselves, alone. He sends help and blessing to carry us through.

Max Lucado says, “Gratitude is a dialysis of sorts. It flushes self-pity out of our systems.” We give God thanks for his unfailing goodness, and help, and boost. Be careful not to lose your gratitude because some things are not going right. Remember to see what is, even in the midst of it. And the miracle is, we will become able to cope, and handle it. Counting our blessings adds strength to us as we face whatever we do.

When you pray, I challenge to make giving thanks the longest part of your prayers. Name your blessings. Count them out. When you realize how blessed you are, your burdens lighten, and your strength is restored. God again feels close, and you become aware how important you are to Him. You are blessed. Give thanks. Doing so is the most powerful miracle on earth!

**PP#4:** Let's not just talk about giving thanks, let's do it!

So, this morning, this is all I'm going to preach. Rather than talking about giving God thanks, and telling you that you need to do it, let's take some time and actually do it!

So, I've created five ways for us to give thanks to God this morning. I want us all to participate, kids and everyone. We will start our prayer outline again, and then, when it comes time to give thanks, we'll have five stations, five ways that we will go give thanks. Five stations: plan to get to all of them, but there is no particular order. Whenever you see there is space, go.

There are three have stations around the sanctuary. Two you can do in the pew.

**PP#5:** Stations for Giving Thanks to God:

Letters of the alphabet: Nature

Picture frame: People in your life

Hands cutout: Personal blessing

Thank you card: Prayer concern

Psalm 107 Handout: Worship

1. Giving God thanks for the creation you get to enjoy. To your left!

God has placed us in an amazing world, with a beautiful creation. Sometimes we feel God closest when we are noticing the splendor of a rainbow, or a sunset. Along the wall we have placed the letters of the alphabet. I want to invite you to take a sticky note, and write something in creation...something that God made, that you give thanks for. Write it on your sticky note, and then place it under the letter it starts with. Let's try to get at least one under each letter of the alphabet.

2. Giving God thanks for the people He has placed in your life. Front center!

God has placed people in your life as special blessings. You give God thanks for family, friends, loved ones that enrich your life. Some of them you may have a picture of at home. Here, today, I want you to give God thanks for the special people in your life. Choose a couple and write their names on this big picture frame...and picture their faces as you do. As you walk up and back, name people you give God thanks for. They are gifts from God!

3. Giving God thanks for the personal blessings in your life. To your right!

God blesses us each with special, individual blessings. We lift them up in prayers of thanksgiving, lifting our hands to God. Each of you have a hand cutout in your bulletin. I invite you to write down in a phrase or sentence on the hand some of the personal blessings you have received from God. Think for a time and remember how good God has been to you. And record some of those blessings. Then, I'll ask you to bring your hand of thanksgiving, lifted in prayer, to tape on the wall over here by the organ. We'll put them all together to create a mural of thanksgiving, bearing witness and worship to the goodness of God that we have personally experienced!

4. Giving God thanks for the prayer requests He answers. In the pew!

The fourth station you can do in the pew. It's thanking God for answered prayers. In your bulletin is a thank you card. On the inside, write down a prayer concern that you have right now: something you are lifting to God in prayer. Then, I want you to write down thanks to God for however He will answer your prayers. You see, we thank God for prayers He has yet to answer, because we know He will. It's an act of faith. So, on your card, write down your prayer concerns, and then write down a thank you to God knowing He will answer it.

But here's the important part on this card. You take it home with you, and go put it with your Thanksgiving Day decorations, or in your calendar. For, I want you to keep this card, and then on Thanksgiving Day, as part of your celebration and worship, open the card again and see how God has answered your prayer. You will see how God has answered your prayers, and has earned the thanksgiving you had already given months earlier.

5. Giving God thanks by joining with God's people to thank Him in worship. In the pew!

In your bulletin, on the back of your Church at Home insert, is Psalm 107. This is something you can do in your pew. Read through the psalm, and then use it to pray prayers of thanksgiving. There are guides printed on the handout.

**PP#6:** Father, You are good.

I need your help. So do they.

Thank you.

[Pause for a time of giving thanks: 5 stations.]

Amen.

So, let's spend some time in transformative prayer. Let's pray in a way that changes things, even us! Let's spend some time praying prayers of thanksgiving to God.

So, we start with the Prayer Outline, and then move to our stations.

Let's pray. **Father, You are good. I need your help. So do they. Thank you!**

**PP#7:** Stations for Giving Thanks to God:

Letters of the alphabet: Nature

Hands cutout: Personal blessing

Picture frame: People in your life

Thank you card: Prayer concern

Psalm 107 Handout: Worship

And we close together, with all God's people saying, **Amen!**

**Closing Song:** *Glory to Glory* - Sanctify

[Begin with *Star Wars* series preview]

**Memory Verse:**

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." -1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Announcements:** St. Andrews Family Shelter Signup

**Benediction:** -Pastor David