

Thanksgiving Day Prayer

On July 18th 1863 President Abraham Lincoln signed the first Thanksgiving Day proclamation. It wasn't made an official holiday until the following year. President Lincoln was faced with the task of trying to heal a divided nation; to end the suffering and restore peace. So he proclaimed a day of thanks to, in his words, "Almighty God" for listening to the prayers of an afflicted people as he was finally seeing signs that the war could finally be ending. In his proclamation President Lincoln said:

"Now, therefore, be it known, that I do set apart a day for National Thanksgiving, Praise and Prayer; and I invited the people of the United States to assemble in their customary places of worship, and in the forms approved by their own conscience, to render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things he has done in the Nation's behalf, and to invoke the influence of His holy spirit to subdue the anger, which has produced and so long sustained a needless rebellion; to change the hearts of the insurgents, to guide the counsels of the government with wisdom adequate to so great a national emergency, and to visit with tender care and consolation all those who have been brought to suffer in mind, body, or estate; and finally, to lead the whole Nation, through paths of repentance and submission to the Divine will, back to the perfect enjoyment of the Union and fraternal peace."



When we can finally humble ourselves with our new knowledge of how we are so incredibly engineered; when we can finally see the work of our Creator's hands, and see before us all the technology that gives us life. Then we can finally appreciate all the incredible things our Creator has planned for us. We can finally come out of the darkness of false science and religion and recognize the sovereignty of Almighty God; that He created the heavens and the earth and everything in it; that our children are the work of his hands and that all this great food we enjoy on Thanksgiving with our families is part of His plan for our enjoyment and our health. Then once again we can seek out His wisdom and his righteousness and as a Nation we can again put our trust in God and not in the idolatry created by human beings. Then the Lord will be our God again and we will be called a blessed Nation. That's why our founders put "In God we Trust" on our money and called us "One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all". So this Thanksgiving I invite all of you to join me in trusting God, recognizing what He calls evil and good, and seeking out his ways; so once again we can be a people united by the same faith. For the sake of our children's children, we pray for your help and guidance Lord.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Amen and Amen

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BY HIS EXCELLENCY
ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
A PROCLAMATION

For a Day of Thanksgiving, Praise, and Prayer.

It has pleased Almighty God to hearken to supplications and prayers of an afflicted people, and to vouchsafe to the Army and Navy of the United States on the land and on the sea, victories so signal and so effective as to furnish reasonable grounds for augmented confidence, that the Union of these States will be maintained, their constitution preserved, and peace and prosperity permanently established; but these victories have been accorded not without sacrifice of life, limb, health, and liberty, incurred by brave, patriotic and loyal citizens. Domestic affliction in every part of the country follows in the train of these fearful bereavements.

It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father and the power of His hand equally in these triumphs and these sorrows.

Now, therefore, be it known, that I do set apart, **THURSDAY, THE SIXTH DAY OF AUGUST NEXT,** to be observed as a day for National Thanksgiving, Praise and Prayer; and I invite the people of the United States to assemble on that occasion in their customary places of worship, and in the forms approved by their own conscience, render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things he has done in the Nation's behalf, and invoke the influence of His holy spirit to subdue the anger, which has produced and so long sustained a needless rebellion; to change the hearts of the insurgents, to guide the counsels of the government with wisdom adequate to so great a national emergency, and to visit with tender care and consolation throughout the length and breadth of our land all those who through the vicissitudes of marches, voyages, battles, and sieges have been brought to suffer in mind, body, or estate; and finally, to lead the whole Nation, through paths of repentance and submission to the Divine will, back to the perfect enjoyment of Union and fraternal peace.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington this fifteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the eighty-eighth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*