



This reading is appropriate for use by families, groups or congregations before a Thanksgiving meal. Before reading together, please select two people to serve as leaders one and two. Part of the reading is from Psalm 100, verses 4 and 5. Please note the justice action opportunity listed at the end of the reading.

An Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer

Leader 1: We give thanks for the ability to come together this day as friends and family.

All: We celebrate the times when we share food and friendship with one another.

Leader 2: We know that it is right and good to give thanks to God for the abundance that God has given.

All: We remember the words of the Psalmist, who repeatedly urges us to “come before God with thanksgiving.”

Leader 1: Over the years, our nation’s leaders have recognized the importance of setting aside a day to give thanks for all that God has given us.

All: It is a day to share food with friends and family, and to seek ways for sharing God’s bounty with those around us.

Leader 2: We recognize that food did not just magically appear.

All: We give thanks for the farmers and farm workers who planted and harvested our food.

Leader 1: We pray that all immigrants who come to our nation, including the many who plant and harvest our food, will be treated with respect and hospitality.

All: We give thanks for the workers who process and package our food, in turkey processing plants, and in canning and vegetable packing plants.

Leader 2: We pray that these workers and all workers will be paid wages that allow them to put food on their own tables.



All: **We lift up grocery store workers, who enable us to purchase our food at nearby stores.**

Leader 1: And finally, we lift up the hands that prepared this food,

All: **The cooks, the assistants, and all those who helped put this food on our table.**

Leader 2: Food and the sharing of food is the work of many people.

All: **For this we give thanks.**

Leader 1: As we pause today before we eat, let us seek new ways

All: **To enjoy the special times with friends and family.**

Leader 2: Let us find new ways

All: **To share our nation's prosperity with all who labor.**

Leader 1: And let us pledge ourselves anew

All: **To be a people of sharing and a people of thanksgiving.**

Leader 2: Today, we enter God's gates with thanksgiving.

All: **We enter God's courts with praise.**

Leader 1: We give thanks to God.

All: **We praise God's name.**

Leader 2: For God is good.

All: **God's love endures forever.**

Leader 1: God's faithfulness continues through all generations.

All: **We give thanks for food, for friends, for family, and for the opportunity to share with one another.**

Leader 2: Let us enjoy the food before us.

All: **Amen.**

For those who wish to encourage sharing and support workers, Interfaith Worker Justice invites you to set aside a time during your Thanksgiving sharing time to take out your phones, go to www.wagetheft.org and sign a petition in support of workers who are calling for an end to wage theft. For more ways to support workers, visit www.iwj.org.