

A Scout is Reverent

Prayers and Graces

A SCOUTER'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER

With reverence in our hearts,
We, Your many children of many beliefs,
United in common purpose,
Gather to offer this our humble prayer,
In Thanksgiving.

As Scouters we are thankful for:
The many gifts and talents given to our fellow Scouters, and to ourselves;
The freedom we have to join together and as a team accomplish more than any of us could alone;
The opportunity to be of service to young people, parents, other Scouters and our community;
Our joy at seeing so many young people become excited as they grow and are able to meet challenges;
Being reminded by their ceremonies and legends that he who serves his fellows, is of his fellows greatest;
And most importantly we are thankful for the gift of knowing that our prayers are heard.

We each in our own way take this moment to silently add our own thanksgivings . . .

(pause)

With thanks in our hearts we offer our prayers and ask that You, the Great Scoutmaster of All Scouts, be with each of us until we meet again.

AMEN

By Michael F. Bowman

A SCOUT'S PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help to keep my honor bright
And teach me that integrity of character
Is my most priceless possession.

Grant that I may do my best today,
And strive to do even better tomorrow.

Teach me that duty is a friend and not an enemy,
And help me face even the most disagreeable task cheerfully.

Give me the faith to understand my purpose and life,
Open my mind to the truth and fill my heart with love.

I am thankful for all the blessings you have bestowed upon my country.

Help me to do my duty to my country and
To know that a good nation must be made from good men.

Help me to remember my obligation to obey the Scout Law,
And give me understanding, so that it is more than mere words.

May I never tire of the joy of helping other people or
Look the Other way when someone is in need.

You have given me the gift of a body,
Make me wise enough to keep it health,
That I might serve better.

You are the source of all wisdom,
Help me to have an alert mind,
Teach me to think,
And help me to learn discipline.

In all that I do and in every challenge I face,
Help me to know the difference between right and wrong,
And lead me in obedience on a straight path to a worthy goal.

By Michael F. Bowman

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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The Iroquois Prayer

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to the world, hear me.

I come to you as one of your many children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and your wisdom.

May I walk in beauty. Make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things that you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may know the things you have taught your children, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Make me strong, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy, myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you with straight eyes, so that when life fades as the fading sunset, my spirit comes to you without shame.

Each of six Scouts can read one part.

Prayers Collected From "Scouter's 5 Cutouts"

The Leader magazine.

My Prayer:

Thank you, God, for all the wonderful things I have.
Please bring good health and happiness to all people in the world.
May all people have good food and warm clothes.
May everyone have nice friends.
May all people learn to read and write.
May the whole world be at peace.
This is my prayer.

Prayer

For the warmth of the fire,
For the joy of singing,
For the laughter of games
For the fun of yells,

For the happiness of campfires shared,
We thank you, God.

Blessing

May you sleep deep and wake refreshed,
With the sun shining down on you and a happy heart.

Children's Prayer

Dear God, we pray that all children will sleep peacefully tonight;
We pray that all children will eat well tonight;
We pray that all children will grow to know you;
We pray that all children will have a chance to grow strong and know the love of others
as well as your love.
Thank you for the life you have given us:
We are lucky.

(from Australian Scout magazine)

What is Fair?

Dear God,
Whenever we say, "It's not fair",
We should remember those who have nothing to eat;
Whenever we say, "It's not fair",
We should remember those who sleep in the street;
Whenever we say, "It's not fair",
We should remember those in the middle of a war;
Whenever we say, "It's not fair",
We should remember those who are sick and poor.
Help us to remember how lucky we are
And not to say, "It's not fair."

*(written by British Cub Scout Owen Shadick for the 4th Barnehurst Pack Prayer Book.
Thanks to Scouting (UK) magazine.)*

Scout Prayer

Dear God,
help us to carry your spirit in our lives, that we may share it with others by living it
ourselves.
Help us to offer all that we have and are in your service.
And help us to live the spirit of Scouting so the spirit will live on through us.

(From "A Memorial to a Scouter". by Laird Vanni)

People of God

Dear God,
You made all the people of the world.
And you love them all;
Help me to see the real person
When I meet someone
And not just see the colour of skin
Or difference in eyes:
I look different to others,
Just like they look different to me.
But really, we are all the same -
People of God

(Thanks to Australian Scout magazine)

God Is...

over all things
under all things
outside all things
within but not enclosed
without, but not excluded
above, but not raised up
below, but not depressed
wholly above, presiding
wholly without, embracing
wholly within, filling.

(Hildevert of Lavardi, 11th century Thanks to the Presbyterian Record)

Prayer

Thank you, God.
It is a grey day, yet I am happy.
Not because some special thing is going to happen, but because I am at peace within.

I do not wish I were someone else,
I am glad to be me.
I do not wish I were some place else,
I am happy being where I am.
I am learning to savour the present moment,
and to be glad to be alive and living in it.

Thank you, God.

(from Linda Kish, Lethbridge, Alta.)

Creator Spirit, Come

O God, Creator of lakes and dunes
Help us to feel your spirit
In the beauty of nature around us:

Make us calm and,
In the quiet, speak to us:

Help us to listen;
We have so much to learn from you
And also from one another:

Help us to share
Our plans and our decisions,
Our dreams and expectations:

Help us to celebrate
Your presence among us,
And to work together in your name.

(Martha Koenig, from United Church Camping, Spring '85)

A Grace a Day

When a Pack Scouter in the U.K. found his Cubs always mechanically repeated "For what we are about to receive...." before camp meals, he decided to try a different grace each meal. He prepared some cards with a short grace on each side and, at meals, placed a card on each table. The person asked to say grace picked up a card and chose the one he wanted. The Cubs were always eager to read the cards, he says.

You might ask each of your Cubs to create his own two graces and prepare such a card to bring to camp. These examples are some of the graces our Scouter used to start the idea.

This happy meal will happier be
If we, O God, remember Thee.

We thank you, God, for happy hearts,
For fine and sunny weather;
We thank you, God, for this our food,
And that we are together.

For every cup and plateful,
God make us truly grateful.

As we enjoy this earthly food
At this table you have spread,
We'll not forget to thank you, God,
For all our daily bread.

Wolf Cub Prayer, Bolivia

Kind and good Lord,
teach me to be humble and generous,
to imitate your example,
to love you with all my heart,
and to follow your path.

Time

Thank you, God, for time:

Time for talking and time for walking,
Time for caring and time for sharing,
Time for working and time for playing,
Time for running and time for resting,
You give us time, God;
Help us make the most of it.

(from Scouting (U.K.) magazine)

New Year's Blessing

God bless thy year,
Thy coming in, thy going out,
Thy rest, thy travelling about,
The rough, the smooth,
The bright, the dear;
God bless thy year.

We Begin

God, we begin a new year well fed and warmly clothed, among friends, and with more things than we need to keep us healthy and happy. We are the lucky ones. We pray for others who are not so fortunate and, more important, we want to work for them. Help show us the way to make our community, our country, and our world a place where all people enjoy good food and shelter, good friendships and peace--where all people have a fair share of the things they need to be healthy and happy and truly alive.

An Irish Blessing

May the blessed sunlight shine upon you and warm your heart until it glows like a great fire, so that a stranger may come and warm himself at it, and also a friend.

(thanks to Anne Barbour, Essex, Ont.)

Evening Prayer

Lord, in the quiet of the evening,
come into our hearts as we lie down to rest,
and help us to know that, in camping outdoors,
we need not fear. You are with us.

(The Outlook, B.C./Yukon)

Camp Closing Prayer

God, we thank you for this beautiful weekend.
The smiling faces we see and the laughter we hear echoing through the trees
fill our hearts with gladness and remind us that, in this fast-paced world of ours,
there are times when we all need to pause and refresh ourselves in nature's calm and
beauty.

The Blessing of St. Francis of Assisi

May the Lord bless thee and keep thee; may He show His face to thee and have mercy
upon thee; may He turn His countenance to thee, and give thee peace. May the Lord bless
thee. Amen.

A Leader's Prayer

Put me in touch with the heart of a boy,
Let me study his doubts and his fears.
Let me try to show him the way of life
And help him avoid its tears.
For the heart of a boy in its buoyancy,
Is one that is pure and free;
So put me in touch with the heart of a boy,
The heart of the man to be.

(from Pictou County District Council, N.S.)

A Leader's Prayer

Please God grant me-

The spark to imagine
The daring to innovate
The discipline to plan
The skill to do
The will to achieve
The commitment to be responsible
The leadership to motivate

(Thanks to Bob Slater, London, Ontario)

Beaver Prayer

God is sharing;
Beavers are sharing;
God is loving;
Beavers share his love.

(from Scouter Susan Doucette, 1st Masstown Beavers, N.S.)

Vespers & Closings

Softly Falls

Softly falls the light of day
As our campfire fades away
Silently each Guide should ask
Have I done my daily task
Have I kept my honor bright
Can I guiltless sleep tonight
Have I done and have I dared
Everything to be prepared?

Breton Fisherman's Prayer

Protect me oh Lord for my boat is so small
Protect me oh Lord for my boat is so small
My boat is so small and your sea is so wide
Protect me oh Lord

Bed is Too Small

Bed is too small for my tiredness
Bring me a hilltop with trees
Tuck a cloud up under my chin
Wind, blow the moon out, please

Evensong

When the shadows softly gather
As we close our eyes in sleep
We would thank thee holy Father
For thy keep

Keep our loved ones free from sorrow
Be thou ever close beside
Help us play the game tomorrow
As thy Guides

All Night, All Day

Day is dying in the west
Angels watchin' over me my Lord
Sleep, my child and take your rest
Angels watchin' over me

Now I lay me down to sleep
Angels watchin' over me my Lord
Pray the Lord my soul to keep
Angels watchin' over me

Chorus: All night, all day
Angels watchin' over me my Lord
All night, all day
Angels watchin' over me

If I die before I wake
Angels watchin' over me my Lord
Pray the Lord my soul to take
Angels watchin' over me

Brownie Closing

Oh Lord our God
Thy children call
Grant us thy peace
And bless us all
Goodnight...

Taps

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lake
From the hills
From the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh

Daylight Taps

Thanks and praise
For our days
'Neath the sun
'Neath the stars
'Neath the sky
As we go
This we know
God is nigh

Table Graces

Spoken

God is great and God is good
And we thank Him for our food
By His hand we must be fed
Give us, Lord, our daily bread

Let us bow our heads and say:
We thank you, God, for food this day
Thank you, God, for things to eat
For fruit and milk, for bread and meat
Thank you, God, for words to say
So we can speak and we can pray.

Thank you for the world so sweet
Thank you for the food we eat
Thank you for the birds that sing
Thank you, God, for everything.

For health and friends
And daily food
We give thee thanks, O Lord.

We praise thee, O Father, for food and for fellowship
Give to us thru the one, vigor of body
Thru the other, strength of spirit.

This happy meal will happier be
If we, O God, remember Thee

We thank you, God, for happy hearts,
For fine and sunny weather;
We thank you, God, for this our food,
And that we are together.

For every cup and plateful,
God make us truly grateful.

As we enjoy this earthly food,
At this table you have spread,
We'll not forget to thank you, God,
For all our daily bread.

For food and Thy gifts of love
We give Thee thanks and praise
Look down, O Lord, from above
And bless us all our days.

God we thank Thee for this food
For rest and home and all things good
For wind and rain and sun above
But most of all for those we love.

Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and us to thy service.

The bread is on our table
Bless those who have no bread
And give us grace in sharing
This bounty round us spread.

Back of the Bread

Back of the bread is the flour
And back of the flour is the mill

And back of the mill is the wind
And the rain and the Father's will

Breakfast Prayer

Dear Lord
Keep us from being like porridge
Slow to boil and hard to stir
Make us like Corn Flakes
Always prepared and ready to serve!

Sung

God is Good

(Tune: Rock-a-round-the-clock)

God is Good, God is Great
And We Thank Him for our Food.
Got to Thank Him Morning noon and Night.
For our God is out - a - sight
amen, amen, amen amen amen.

Thanks Be to God

(Tune: Wendy)

Thanks be to God the Father Almighty.
Thanks be to God who gave us this Earth.
Thanks be to God the Spirit Eternal.
Thanks be to God forever.
Amen.

God Our Father

(Tune: Are You Sleeping)

God Our Father
God Our Father,
Once again
Once again,
We would ask thy blessing
We would ask thy blessing;
Amen, Amen.

Back of the Bread

Back of the bread is the flour,
And back of the flour is the mill,
And back of the mill is the wind and the rain,
And the Father's will.

Bless Our Friends, Bless Our Food

(Tune: Edelweiss)

Bless our friends, bless our food,
Come, O Lord and sit with us.
May our talks glow with peace,
May your love surround us.

Friendship and love,
May they bloom and grow,
Bloom and grow, forever.
Bless our friends, bless our food.
Come, O Lord and sit with us.

Hark to the Chimes

Hark to the chimes, come bow your head.
We thank Thee, Lord, for this good bread.

'Neath These Tall Green Trees

'Neath these tall green trees we stand,
Asking blessings from His hand.
Thanks we give to Thee above,
For Thy health and strength and love.

Round of Thanks

For health, and strength,
And daily bread,
We praise Thy name, O Lord.

Scottish Grace

(Tune: Yankee Doodle)

Some have meat and cannot eat,
And some have none that want it.

But we have meat and we can eat,
And so the Lord be thanked.

Scottish Grace #2

(sung to "Auld Lang Syne")

There's some has meat
That cannot eat
And some wud eat that had it
But we hae meat
And we can eat
So let the Lord be thanked

Thank Thee

(Tune: Jacob's Ladder)

Thank Thee, Thank Thee, Heavenly Father,
For Thy blessings, as we gather,
Give us peace and understanding,
Bless us all, O Lord.

Wayfarer's Grace

(Tune: Doxology)

For all the glory of the way,
For Thy protection, night and day,
For roof-tree, fire and bed and board,
For friends and home, we thank Thee Lord.

Be Present

(Tune: Gillette Commercial)

Be present at our table, Lord
Be here and everywhere adored
These morsels bless and grant that we
May feast in Paradise with thee.

Eagle Thanks

(Tune: Oobla-de, Oobla-da)

Eagle thanks the Lord for the Mountains
Fish thanks the Lord for the sea
We thank the Lord for our blessings
For what we are about to receive.

Our Father

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Our Father, Our Father,
Once again, Once again,
We would ask your blessing,
We would ask your blessing, Amen, Amen.

We Thank Thee Father

(Tune: Hernando's Hideaway)

We thank thee Father, for thy care
And for thy bounty everywhere,
For this and every other gift,
Our grateful hearts to thee we lift.

Johnny Appleseed

Oh, the Lord is good to me,
And so I thank the Lord,
For giving me the things I need,
The sun and the rain and the apple seed,
The Lord is good to me.

And every seed that grows
Will grow into a tree
And someday soon there'll be apples there
For everyone in the world to share
The Lord is good to me

Johnny Appleseed....

Thank You Lord

(Tune: Edelweiss)

Thank you Lord on this day,
For our many good blessings,
Thank you Lord on this day,

For our many close friendships.
Glory to God, may you hear our prayer
Guide us on forever,
Thank you Lord on this day,
For our blessings and friendships.

Praise Be To God

(Tune: Windy)

Praise be to God, the Father almighty
Praise be to God for this day
Praise be to God, the spirit eternal
Praise be to God forever.

Hark Hear the Chimes

(Tune: Big Ben)

Hark hear the chimes
Come bow your head
Lord, we thank you
For this our bread

Oh, Lord

(Tune: My Bonnie)

Oh, Lord, we thank you for this meal
Oh, Lord, we thank you for our friends
Oh, Lord, we thank you for Blue Springs
Oh, Please won't you stay close to us.

Please bless, please bless,
Oh, please bless this food for us, for us.
Please bless, please bless,
Oh, please bless this food for us.

Our Father

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Our Father, Our Father
Hear our prayer, hear our prayer
We thank you for our blessings

We thank you for our blessings
Amen, Amen.

For Health and Strength

For health and strength
And daily food
We praise thy name
Oh Lord

For the Joy

For the joy at our board
We thank thee Lord
For the joy at our board
We thank thee Lord

Praise Ye The Lord (Alleluia)

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia
Praise ye the Lord
Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia
Praise ye the Lord

Praise ye the Lord
Alleluia
Praise ye the Lord
Alleluia
Praise ye the Lord
Alleluia
Praise ye the Lord!

God is Great

(sung to "Rock Around the Clock")

God is great, God is good
And we're gonna thank Him for our food
We're gonna thank Him morning, noon and night
We're gonna thank you, Lord, you're outta sight!
Amen! Amen amen amen!

We Thank You Father

(sung to "Lord of the Dance")

We thank you Father for our evening meal
For fun and friends and the happiness we feel
For blessing and guidance and love we pray
Be with us tomorrow and each new day

My Lord is So Great

My Lord is so great, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my Lord cannot do (clap, clap)
My Lord is so great, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my Lord cannot do (clap, clap)
The mountains are his, the valleys are his
The stars in the sky are his too
My Lord is so great, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my Lord cannot do (clap, clap)

Thanks for Food

Chorus:

Thanks for food and those who made it
Thanks for food
And those who made it, those who made it
Thanks for food
And those who made it!

Tall and short and inbetween
And tall and short
And inbetween, and inbetween
And tall and short
And inbetween, hey! (Chorus)

Wide and thin and inbetween
And wide and thin
And inbetween, and inbetween
And wide and thin
And inbetween, hey! (Chorus)

World Hunger Grace

For food in a world where many walk in hunger
For faith in a world where many walk in fear
For friends in a world where many walk alone
We give you humble thanks, oh Lord

When I See a Rainbow

(sung to the tune of "The Friendly Giant")

When I see a rainbow, I know that God is near
When I see a rainbow, I know that God is near
Thank you Father for our blessings
When I see a rainbow I know that God is near

Eagles

Eagles thank the Lord for the mountains
Fish thank the Lord for the sea
We thank the Lord for our blessings
For what we are about to receive