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# A Scout is Reverent

## Prayers and Graces

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### 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 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*

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### 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  
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council [mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG](mailto:mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG)

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**The Iroquois Prayer**

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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.*

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## **Prayers Collected From "Scouter's 5 Cutouts"**

*The Leader magazine.*

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### **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.)*

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## **Vespers & Closings**

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### **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

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## **Table Graces**

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### **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!

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### **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

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Last edited:

*The NetWoods Virtual Campsite, Steve Tobin, Campmaster, ([stobin@mmmppcc.org](mailto:stobin@mmmppcc.org))*  
<http://www.isd.net/stobin/index.html>

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