

With hopes for a Thanksgiving Day filled with blessing and bounty -- from your Temple Beth-El Family

Blessings of Thanksgiving



We Give Thanks by Giving

Happy are those who consider the poor. [Psalm 41:2]

O God, as we begin this feast of thanksgiving, we remember the words of Your prophet, who called us to share our bread with the hungry, to clothe the naked, and never to hide ourselves from our kin. May we be mindful of the needs of others, sharing with them the fruits of our labor and helping to sustain them.

We Give Thanks by Remembering our Freedom

We are thankful for the freedom from hunger.

We are thankful for the freedom to worship.

We are thankful for the freedom to challenge our minds.

We are thankful for the freedom to chart our lives.

We are thankful for the freedom to work for a better world.

We are thankful for the freedom to celebrate this day.

We pray for our country, for the men and women who today are protecting our freedom, and for the day when this nation and the entire world will know peace.*

“We cannot merely pray to God to end war;
For the world was made in such a way
That we must find our own path of peace
Within ourselves and with our neighbors...
Therefore, we pray instead
For strength, determination, and willpower,
To do instead of merely to pray
To become instead of merely to wish;
That our world may be safe,
And that our lives may be blessed.” -Rabbi Jack Reimer

We Give thanks by offering Blessings:

We thank God for the bread on our table by sharing our good fortune with others:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam ha motsi lechem min haarets.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

We say *shehecheyanu* to mark the beginning of the holiday, remembering its uniqueness in time:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, for giving us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this moment of joy.

After we eat our festive thanksgiving meal we say:

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the living and their needs. Life of all life, we thank You for the earth's bounty, and for the good and pleasant earth you have given us, to eat its fruit and enjoy its goodness.

**America's Table- A Thanksgiving Haggadah*, The American Jewish Committee.