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A
S E R M O N,

PREACHED AT

TRINITY CHURCH,

IN BOSTON,

ON THE DAY APPOINTED FOR

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

DEC. 1, 1808.

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A SERMON.

PSALM L. 14.

OFFER UNTO GOD THANKSGIVING.

THAT there is a first great cause of all things, who created the world by his power, superintends it by his providence, and governs it by his wisdom, are truths, which none but an atheist can deny. If the creator then be omnipotent, the creature must be dependent on him, and it is incumbent on a dependent creature to acknowledge the obligations which he daily receives from an affectionate master. But with respect to God, we stand in a filial relation to him. He considers us as his children, and condescends to permit us to address him in the familiar language of "Our father who art in heaven." Surely, then, this is an additional motive of thanksgiving; this is a new instance of his kindness and affection, and calls for the tribute of our sincerest gratitude and praise.

If we trace human reason from its first dawn, we shall find, that philosophy considered man, as originally made, to praise and honour his creator. When God issued the great mandate, Let there be light, and there was light,—

when he made "this universal frame, thus wondrous fair," there was still wanting a creature, endowed with faculties to comprehend, admire, and estimate the works he beheld, and to worship the great creator "in spirit and in truth." All nature indeed seemed to "declare his glory, and the firmament shewed his handy work." But this was a defective glory, and man was formed, and endowed with sufficient powers, to offer up for the insensible world, no less than for himself, the grateful hymn of praise and thanksgiving.

If man, then, individually, is bound to perform this duty, much more is it incumbent on him to perform it in a social state; for as his blessings, in such a state, are greatly multiplied, his gratitude ought to be proportionably great.

I shall consider the obligations we are under to thank God, for his goodness to us, as citizens of the world at large, as independent Americans, and as inhabitants of this state and town.

But before I proceed to these considerations, I would premise a few observations on the subject of political sermons. It is the opinion of some worthy men, that politics ought never to be heard from the pulpit; that in christian temples, nought should resound, but the healing voice of christian charity, the praises of almighty God, the peculiar doctrines of the christian religion, and the duties which that religion enjoins. But with deference to the opinion of such persons, I would ask, for what purpose are we this day assembled? Are we not here met together in social worship, in obedience to civil authority,

and in compliance with the wise usage of our pious ancestors, who, at stated periods, were always accustomed to attend in consecrated temples, to thank God for the temporal blessings he conferred on them, or to deprecate his vengeance on their transgressions? If we refer to the sacred writings, we shall find that the Jewish preachers, in their discourses, always considered the *political affairs* of the nation, with which the civil and religious rights of every people are most intimately blended. Where is the country, where is the church, in which the discussion of political affairs is prohibited? Even in the most despotick governments, this liberty is allowed, if not enjoined, though the preacher must be careful that he advance no sentiment that may prove injurious to the government. If we are deprived of this privilege, we are deprived of an opportunity of doing our duty, as we cannot otherwise bring home to men's bosoms, in the most striking and interesting manner, their duties, their civil errors, and their political vices.

The days appointed, by civil authority, for fasts and thanksgivings, have ever been, in this country, peculiarly appropriated to the consideration of political topics, and many of the clergy continue to adopt the proclamation of the chief magistrate as their text.

Though it be chiefly incumbent on us to keep "the noiseless tenor of our way," in performing the ministerial duties of our profession, yet, as men and citizens, we cannot, nor ought we, to feel no interest in the prosperity of the world at large, and of our own country in particular. For are we not men? Are we not citizens? Have

we not wives, children and relations? Have we not a country, as dear to us as to the noisiest brawler in favour of the rights of man? From the very nature of our profession, of all political citizens, we must be the most disinterested. For what office can we expect? What worldly emolument can we hope to reap? Consecrated to the service of the altar, we can receive only for our utmost exertions, the approbation of the candid, excite the apprehension of our timid friends, and awaken the calumnies of our political foes. I think, then, that our claim to disinterestedness cannot reasonably be disputed. Nor are our literary acquisitions to be despised. We read much, and in learning are not commonly inferior to gentlemen of other professions. When you hear, therefore, a political sermon from a clergyman, candour must allow, that you hear the sentiments of a disinterested, and no ignorant man. Can every gentleman, who writes in a newspaper, or harangues in publick, conscientiously lay his hand on his heart, and say as much?

I proceed now to consider, 1. our obligations to God, for his goodness to us, as citizens of the world at large.

The first object of our gratitude to the Supreme Being, in this point of view, is the unexpected and important check given to the ambition of the most unprincipled and formidable nation, that heaven, in its wrath, ever let loose to scourge the sins of man. The consequences of the French revolution, you all know, which has for years bathed unhappy France in tears, and Europe in blood. I cannot describe the revolutionary demon, who has perpetrated

the most atrocious crimes in the most atrocious ways, in more appropriate language, than that in which Milton describes death :—

“ The other shape,
 “ If shape it might be called, which shape had none
 “ Distinguishable in member, joint, or limb,
 “ Or substance might be called, that shadow seemed
 “ (For each seemed either) black it stood, as night,
 “ Fierce as ten furies, terrible as hell.”

We have seen this monster striding with gigantick steps over Europe, and sowing, in his march, death, misery, and dismay. All were involved in one common destruction. Weakness found no compassion, and strength was inadequate to resist. Have we not then reason to rejoice, and to offer unto God thanksgiving, for checking the career of this infernal spirit, and preventing his farther progress? It would be equally endless and disgusting to recount to you, all the foul abominations of the French revolutionists; their horrid blasphemies, and manifold impieties; their noyades, and their fusillades, and their guillotining; and their barbarous massacres of innocent women and children; and all their unheard of, and unspeakable atrocities, which, though but too well authenticated, will appear almost incredible to shuddering posterity.

Their still increasing power was sufficiently formidable, to make the stoutest heart tremble, and the most sanguine spirit despair. All Europe, with the exception of Great-Britain and Sweden, was either subjected by their arms, or crouched at their feet. The British navy indeed, after repeated victories, having destroyed or captured the most formidable fleets of Europe, still rode triumphant on the

main, and displayed its victorious banners in every quarter of the globe. France gave up the contest; but, enraged at her numerous defeats, resolved to effect on shore, what she was unable to accomplish at sea. Fondly flattering herself, that by ruining the trade of her rival, she could destroy her naval power, she caused the ports of continental Europe to be hermetically sealed. The embargo closed the harbours of America; and thus *we* most wisely lent *our* aid, to cripple still farther that powerful arm, which alone had saved our country from slavery, our property from forced loans, our wives and daughters from insult and violation.

Firm and dignified was the conduct of Britain at this trying moment, when her enemies were anticipating her downfall, and her friends were trembling for her safety. She betrayed no mark of defection, she offered no degrading concession; but relying on her own intrepidity, the justice of her cause, and the protection of heaven, she determined to conquer or perish. In the language of one of her orators, "She nailed her flag to the mast, resolved, if she could not maintain the contest, to go down with the ship."

To the truly philosophick mind, neither warped by prejudice, nor biassed by partialities, no nation ever presented a sublimer spectacle than Great-Britain. That an island, with a population little exceeding twelve millions, should defy the power, and baffle the efforts of the conqueror of Europe, aided by the physical force of one hundred millions of people, must naturally excite admiration. "The British character," says Judge Marshall, "rather wounds by

its pride, and offends by its haughtiness and open violence, than injures by the secret indulgence of a malignant, but a paltry and unprofitable revenge; and, certainly, such unworthy motives, ought not lightly to be imputed to a great and magnanimous nation, which dares to encounter a world, and risque its existence, for the preservation of its station in the scale of empires, of its real independence, and of its liberty."*

I blush for an American, who does not glory in drawing his lineage from this great people, and I can read with pleasure, uninfluenced by popular prejudice and folly, the panegyrick of Thomson, in his philosophical poem of the Seasons:

"Island of bliss! amid the subject sea
 "That thunders round thy rocky coast, set up,
 "At once the wonder, terror and delight
 "Of distant nations, whose remotest shore
 "Can soon be shaken by thy naval arm;
 "Not to be shook thyself; but all assaults
 "Baffling, as thy hoar cliffs the loud sea wave."

It was at this alarming crisis, that Spain awoke from the slumber of ages, and astonished the world. That country, which, from her situation and resources, ought to stand in the first rank among the nations of the earth, from the feebleness and corruption of her government, had been but little more than a satellite of France, from the time, that the policy of Lewis the 14th had placed a Bourbon on her throne. She made, indeed, a feeble attempt to arrest the progress of the French revolution; but, whether from the imbecility of her rulers, or the treach-

* Marshall's Life of Washington, Vol. V. p. 481.

ery of her commanders, was soon overpowered, and her weight thrown into the opposite scale. The acquisition to France was highly important; for, though little was performed, or expected, from her arms, yet her naval power was sufficiently respectable to employ a considerable portion of the British fleet to watch her movements. But her wealth was more immediately convenient to her ally; and notwithstanding the vigilance of the hostile cruisers, the productions of the Peruvian mines ultimately found their way into the revolutionary treasury. She became the servile tool of France, sacrificed her own interests to promote the ambitious projects of that power, and lavished both her wealth and her blood, in a contest, from which she could derive no possible advantage, and which, if successful, would but rivet on her the chains of slavery.

Gratitude and policy seemed to require, that she should be spared farther humiliation. But ambition is a passion not to be satiated, whilst a single victim remains within its grasp; and Napoleon resolved to encircle the brows of a brother with the Spanish diadem. The plan he devised for this purpose, and the manner in which he attempted its execution, are unparalleled in the annals of royal, or imperial profligacy. He gradually withdrew her veteran legions from the bosom of their country, and marched them to the north of Europe. Under pretence of recovering the impregnable rock of Gibraltar, a French army advanced into the heart of Spain, secured the passes, and seized the most important fortresses. A serious misunderstanding, in the interim, was excited, by French intrigue, between the

monarch and the heir apparent, which terminated in the forced resignation of the former, and the elevation of the latter to the throne. Napoleon offered his mediation, decoyed the whole royal family into France, compelled Ferdinand to restore the crown to his father, and the father to place it at his disposal. He immediately declared his brother, king of Spain and of the Indies, who, in a proclamation, addressed the Spaniards, as his subjects, and appointed Murat, one of the newly created nobility, Regent of the kingdom. Thus were twelve millions of people transferred, like so many cattle, to a foreign usurper, whose nation they detested.

The intelligence of these events no sooner reached Spain, than a general burst of patriotick indignation followed. The latent spark of manly virtue, which, though smothered by a corrupt administration, could not be extinguished in the bosom of the noble Castilian, broke out, and kindled into a flame, which, with the rapidity of lightning, extended through the various provinces. The genius of Spain arose, like Samson in his might, determined to destroy the Philistines, though he should pull down ruin upon his head. In the most degraded country of Europe, orators, statesmen, and warriors appeared, where we thought they had no existence, eager to vindicate the honour of their country, to resist usurpation, and punish treachery. In the short space of two months, fifty thousand slaves were captured or destroyed, and the conquerors of Jena, and Austerlitz, were vanquished by the peasants of Arragon and Andalusia.

What will be the final result of this interesting contest, when the modern Genseric shall have arrayed his whole force of disciplined myrmidons against regenerated Spain, time only can discover. But her cause is the most glorious and magnificent, that ever claimed the respect, and admiration of mankind. It is the cause of innocence against guilt, of freedom against tyranny, of patriotism against usurpation, of religion against infidelity, of loyalty against treachery, of violated friendship and confidence, against the most atrocious perfidy and ingratitude.

Lord, God of hosts! extend thy omnipotent arm to aid this gallant people. Inspire their rulers with wisdom, breathe heroick ardour into their warriors. Compassionate at length the miseries of suffering nations. Frustrate the machinations of the tyrant, paralyze his legions with dismay, break the arm of abused power, and restore peace to the distracted world!

Are there any among us, so lost to all moral feeling, as to wish success to Napoleon, and profligate enough to avow that sentiment? God forbid, my brethren, that we should ever sit under the same roof, or sail in the same barque, with slaves of so mean a soul. "O my soul, enter not thou into their secret; unto their assembly be not thou, mine honour, united!" But no, my brethren, it cannot be. No American *can* wish success to a treacherous usurper, against a brave people, struggling for all that is dear to man. It would be a crime of so black a dye, a turpitude so atrocious, that nothing, short of absolute insanity, could palliate it.

Let us then, my brethren, feel, as we ought, truly thankful, to the sovereign disposer of events, for the success of the Spanish patriots, and for the prospect that is opened for the emancipation of the world. "Offer unto God thanksgiving."

I proceed, II. to consider the obligations we are under to divine Providence, as independent Americans.

We cannot, my brethren, be too thankful for the ocean that separates us from Europe, for the slight shock we have felt amidst the universal convulsion, for the preservation of our government and independence, and for the unprecedented prosperity we have enjoyed. These halcyon days, indeed, are past, and we are now threatened with a ruinous war, or with the continuance of an embargo, almost equally ruinous. The experiment has totally failed of compelling either France, or England, to recede from their decrees, so injurious to the rights of neutrals, while those powers, eager to inflict wounds on each other, are regardless of the sufferings of foreigners.

I trust, we shall always feel that proper respect for our civil rulers, which their high station, and the election of a majority of a free people demand. But we are not obliged to give them our confidence, where we think them undeserving of it, nor to abstain from using the privilege of freeborn citizens, in censuring measures, evidently hostile to the happiness and prosperity of the nation. The embargo has been publicly applauded by France, appears to be a subject of indifference to England, and is injurious only to ourselves. It is, in the language of his Excellency's

proclamation, an "illegal, unjust, and undue restraint on our commerce," the immediate tendency of which is, to impoverish the Eastern States, and render them entirely subservient to the ambitious views of Virginia.

Without questioning the integrity of the present administration, we may reasonably doubt their abilities, as statesmen and politicians. Contrast the present situation of our country with the prosperity it enjoyed under Federal rulers. We had then a flourishing commerce, a rising navy, a full treasury, treaties with the great nations of Europe, peace at home, and general respect abroad. *They* had surmounted inexpressible difficulties; and by resisting the passions of the people, and the sentiments of the gentlemen now in power, saved us from being involved in all the crimes and horrors of the French revolution. They weathered the storm, which required consummate skill to ride out, and left to their successors a task, one would think, of the easiest execution. But how have they improved the immense advantages they enjoyed? Is there a nation, that we can call our friend? Are we not on ill terms with France, with Spain, and almost in a state of hostility with Great-Britain? Is not our commerce annihilated, our navy destroyed, our treasury on the point of being empty? Have we any treaty with Great-Britain, and is not our treaty with France violated every moment? Are we respected abroad, and have we all that happiness at home, to which we are entitled, whilst we are excluded from the ocean, by an act of political suicide, which deprives the industrious labourer of his daily bread, promotes the prosperity of the British colonies in North-America, and drives

our seamen, and mechanicks, to seek employment, in the service of our commercial rival? What but the grossest incapacity, or the most unpardonable prejudices, could have produced this state of things? And shall we place confidence in the authors of these disasters? No, my brethren, there is no impartial inquirer into our political history, but must be a federalist.

It is painful to reflect, in what an imposing attitude this country would have now stood, if federal rulers had continued to administer the government? We should have possessed a respectable marine, the great nations of Europe would have contended for our friendship, no French decrees, no British orders of council, would probably have been issued. Our neutrality would have been respected, and the Lords of the land, and of the ocean, would have vied, in preserving our rights inviolate, from the apprehension, that we might unite with their rival. Notwithstanding the aggressions and insults, we occasionally met with, during the administrations of Washington and Adams, the prosperity of our country surpassed the expectations of the most sanguine. When we attacked and captured her frigates, France evidently shrunk from the contest, and at no period, were we more respected by that power, and by the world in general. With Great-Britain we were on terms of friendship, and the naval commanders of the two nations vied with each other, in the reciprocation of kind offices.

Such was the situation of our affairs, when the present rulers came into power; and however honest may have been their intentions, by singular imbecility, or by unpar-

donable imprudence, they have embroiled us with every nation, with which it is our interest to be on a good footing. With regard to Great-Britain they have brought us into a dilemma, in which it is disgraceful to recede, and ruinous to advance.

That nation, from time immemorial, had claimed the right of taking her own subjects, wherever she found them. From similarity of language, distinctions could not always be made, and native Americans were sometimes prest into the British service. The evil undoubtedly was great and vexatious, but it could occur only during a war, from which, whilst neutrals, we reaped advantages, more than equivalent to the injury. Indeed our men, when found, and proved to be Americans, were always discharged.

Our present rulers, resolved to apply a complete remedy for the evil, have insisted, that the American flag shall protect all who sail under it ; to which Great Britain refuses to accede, from a conviction, that it would destroy her naval power, and leave her naked to the sword of her enemy. For not a man, who could escape, would remain on board her ships, when he could obtain higher wages, and personal security, in the service of foreign merchants.

The attack on the Chesapeake was followed by a proclamation of the President, little short of hostility, before he had ascertained, whether it was the act of the British government, or of an individual. It was disavowed by the British ministry, as soon as known, and a special mission was sent out to this country, to make the necessary reparation. This alone might have soothed the feelings of injured honour ; for what reasonable man, but would be

satisfied, if his adversary acknowledged his fault, and was ready to beg his pardon?

An amicable adjustment was, however, impeded by a punctilio, on which, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the laws of modern honour to decide.

The British envoy demanded a recal of the offensive proclamation, as an indispensable preliminary to the reparation he was prepared to offer ; which was refused by our government. Thus was the negociation broken off, and instead of an amicable adjustment with a friendly nation, we continued to enjoy an embargo. " One would think," said Mr. Tracy in Congress, in 1794, " to hear the declarations in this house, that all men are fed at the opening of our hand ; and if we shut that hand, the nations starve, and if we but shake the fist after it is shut, they die."*

The folly of supposing that we can starve the world into a compliance with our demands, ~~has been~~ sufficiently proved, by the inefficacy of this measure, which, if persevered in, will but distress ourselves, and turn the current of trade into other channels, from which we shall never be able to lead it back to its former source. The time predicted by Sir Thomas Browne, a century since, seems to have arrived,

" When America shall no more send out her treasure,
" But spend it at home in American pleasure."

Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison were both once in favour of a navy, and we are not authorized to place implicit

* Marshall's Life of Washington, vol. v. p. 518.

confidence in men, who change their opinion on important subjects.

"I consider," says Mr. Madison, in 1789, "an acquisition of maritime strength, essential to this country. Should we ever be so unfortunate as to be engaged in war, what but this can defend our towns and cities upon the sea coast? Or what but this can enable us to repel an invading enemy?"*

Militia and gun boats, says Mr. Jefferson, will answer the purpose much better, and Mr. Madison acquiesces in his opinion. When we consider the great advantages under which these gentlemen came into power; when we compare the flourishing state of our country, at that period, with the present alarming situation of affairs, however honest and patriotick we may suppose them, we cannot agree with their admirers, that they are able statesmen, and profound politicians. We respect them as the choice of the people, but protest against the ruinous tendency of their measures.

But notwithstanding the gloomy prospect before us, we have still reason to be thankful for the numerous blessings we enjoy; for the freedom of our government, for the wealth we have accumulated, during our past prosperity; for the means of acquiring the necessities, though we may be abridged of the luxuries of life; for the preservation of peace, and exemption from pestilential disease. Let us "offer then unto God thanksgiving."

III. We have reason to thank God, as the inhabitants of this state and town. The Eastern States, of which

* Ibid. p. 192.

Massachusetts is far the most respectable for its magnitude and opulence, compose the strength and bulwark of the union; and the revolution in political sentiment of our fellow citizens, is a just subject of thanksgiving, to those of us, who are convinced, that our government can never be well administered but upon Federal principles. Upon these, it was founded, by these it was preserved, in an alarming crisis, from anarchy and revolution, and, amidst the convulsion of the world, attained to a great height of respectability and wealth.

"That war with Britain," says the biographer of Washington, "during the continuance of the passionate and almost idolatrous devotion of a great majority of the people for the French republick, would throw America so completely into the arms of France, as to leave her no longer mistress of her own conduct, was not the only fear, which the temper of the day suggested. That the spirit which triumphed in that nation, and deluged it with the blood of its revolutionary champions, might cross the Atlantick, and desolate the hitherto safe and peaceable dwellings of the American people, was an apprehension, not so entirely unsupported by appearances, as to be pronounced chimerical. With a blind infatuation, which treated reason as a criminal, immense numbers applauded a furious despotism, trampling on every right, and sporting with life, as the essence of liberty; and the few, who conceived freedom to be a plant, which did not flourish the better for being nourished with human blood, and who ventured to disapprove the ravages of the guillotine, were execrated as the tools of the coalesced despots, and

as persons, who, to weaken the affection of America for France, became the calumniators of that republick. Already had an imitative spirit, captivated with the splendour, but copying the errors of a great nation, reared up in every part of the continent self-created corresponding societies, who claiming to be the people, assumed a control over the constituted authorities, and were loosening the bands of government. Already were the mountain,* and a revolutionary tribunal, favourite toasts; and already were principles familiarly proclaimed, which, in France, had been the precursors of that tremendous and savage despotism, which, in the name of the people, and by the instrumentality of affiliated societies, had spread its terrifick sway over that fine country, and had threatened to extirpate all that was wise and virtuous. That a great majority of those statesmen, who conducted the opposition, would deprecate such a result, furnished no security against it. When the physical force of a nation usurps the place of its wisdom, those, who have produced such a state of things, do not always retain the power of controlling it. These apprehensions, whether well or ill founded, produced, in those, who felt them, an increased solicitude for the preservation of peace. Their aid was not requisite to confirm the judgment of the president, on this interesting subject. Fixed in his purpose of maintaining the neutrality of the United States, until the aggressions of a foreign power should clearly render neutrality incompatible with honour, and conceiving from the last advices received from England, that the differences between the two nations, had not yet

* A well known term, designating the most violent party in France.

attained that point, he determined to make one decisive effort, which should either remove the ostensible causes of quarrel, or demonstrate the indisposition of Great-Britain to remove them. This determination was executed by the nomination of an envoy extraordinary to his Britannick majesty."

From these dangers, the country was preserved by Federal councils; for had our present rulers, at that time, been in power, enthusiastick admirers, as they were of France, nothing could have saved us from being involved in anarchy, crimes, and civil war. The firmness and wisdom of Washington at that trying moment, deserves and will obtain from posterity, when the angry passions of party shall be laid asleep, a more exalted reputation, than the most brilliant of his military achievements.

Immortal spirit! couldst thou raise thy venerable head from the grave, and behold the goodly edifice, thy genius erected, crumbling into ruins, how wouldst thou lament the fate of thy unhappy country, and the political phrenzy of her citizens!

It is really astonishing, my brethren, that the enlightened yeomanry of New-England should ever have embraced the politicks of Virginia, and have yielded to her the complete control of the Union. It is the submission of sense to ignorance, of wisdom to folly, of experience to theory, of sobriety to intemperance, of rational religion to practical atheism. Here liberty first displayed her banners, and here will she make her last stand; and the period may not be far distant, when the scales will fall off from the eyes of

the American people, and they will discover, that, in democracy, they have worshipped an infernal Fury, not a celestial Goddess.

Our rulers may possess, in private life, every virtue, and human accomplishment. But whilst we see the distress which actually exists, whilst we look back upon the past, and forward to the future, we can place no confidence in their political talents, but must deprecate measures, that inflict immediate suffering, and threaten inevitable ruin.

Angry, however, as appears the complexion of our political sky, and loud as the thunder roars, let us offer unto God thanksgiving, that the bolt has not yet fallen. From *our* portion of the union the clouds have been dispersed, and the sun of federalism, that was supposed by some to have set forever, has once more displayed his cheering rays. Let us be thankful for the blessing, no less than for the numberless local advantages, which we enjoy. The population of our state consists of free, hardy, well informed, and enterprising men. No slaves, no coloured people, in a state of vassalage, pollute the soil of genuine freedom. The habits of our fellow citizens are regular and moral; our religious societies benevolent and enlightened; our schools reflect honour on the good sense and munificence of the people; our merchants are liberal, and our professional men learned. Have we not reason then to praise the Lord for these unparalleled blessings? Have not *we*, above every *other* people, reason to offer unto God thanksgiving? He has preserved us from foreign enemies. He has preserved us from our own passions. He has preserved us from the dreadful disease, that has often scourged

our sister states, from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and from the arrow that flieth at noonday.

If we would preserve these blessings, my brethren, we must study to deserve them. As citizens we must obey the laws. As christians we must regulate our lives by the precepts of the gospel. There can be no government, where there is no religion. Let this solemn truth be deeply impressed on your hearts; and by your attendance on publick worship, by your private virtues and active benevolence, set a good example, and put vice and folly out of countenance.

Let us offer then unto God thanksgiving. Let us bless the supreme benefactor for his merciful kindness to us. Let us enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Let us be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.