



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Thanksgiving prayers, 1942.

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER
Abba Hillel Silver

Our Heavenly Father:

On this Thanksgiving Day our hearts turn to Thee in gratitude for the manifold favors which Thou hast bestowed upon us and our country. We thank Thee for the gracious yield of our bountiful land, and for the spiritual blessings of liberty and freedom which have been our heritage. May we be worthy of Thy gifts and of that goodly heritage.

We are again being tested in the crucible of war. We have been summoned again to defend those great truths by which man alone, made in Thine image, can live in worth and dignity. Our sons have gone forth to battle. Silently and deeply in our hearts we pray for their safety and for their early return. Father of Nations, prosper the arms which they have taken up in defense of the threatened sanctuaries of mankind.

We pray, too, that we who remain behind may find the strength and devotion to match theirs and the courage to bear whatever burdens may be placed upon our shoulders. May we not be found wanting in this grave hour which calls all Thy children to greatness, to renunciation and to sacrifice.

And, in Thine own good time, O God of Goodness, send Thy peace to our weary earth -- and grant rest to all the tired hearts of men.

To Cleveland Press
11-25-42

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER
Abba Hillel Silver

Our Kind Father in Heaven:

The heavens declare Thy glory and our hearts echo their praise. Thou hast dealt graciously with us. Thou hast remembered our land and hast crowned the year with Thy goodness. Out of Thy bountiful stores, blessings without number have come to us, food for our bodies, light for our minds and grace for our souls. All that we are and have and hope for are of Thee, and to Thee belong all praise and thanksgiving.

Even in Thy chastenings we behold Thine unfailing love and Thy thoughts towards us. The earth is now covered with the shadow of death. Nations are in tumult. Kingdoms are moved. War has swept over our peaceful land. But along the road of pain and sacrifice Thy hand is leading us back to the eternal ways from which we had strayed. We know that Thou art in the midst of us and we shall therefore not be moved.

Guard and protect our sons who have gone forth to defend their country in its hour of peril. Be Thou their high tower and their refuge. Help all Thy children everywhere, who seek to make manifest their love of Thee by their devotion and valor to the cause of freedom, justice, and brotherhood, and may their sacrifices hasten the day of universal redemption, reconciliation and peace.

Walton Rankin
P. D.
11-24-42

Thanksgiving Prayer of All Faiths: "God Bless Us All"

By **ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH SCHREMBS**
The Cleveland Catholic Diocese

THE President of the United States spoke for all of us when he suggested that we make this Thanksgiving a day of special prayer for the welfare of our beloved country. That prayer should include particularly a petition to the Most High for the protection of our gallant men—soldiers, sailors, Marines—who now circle the globe in their splendid efforts to preserve democracy in the world. For their spiritual as well as material preservation we must pray.

For all of them we must pray—Jew and Gentile, white and colored, Catholic and non-Catholic. We are all united in a common cause and our Father in Heaven is the Common Father of us all.

We must pray for all on the home front as well as those on the field of battle that God may give us the fortitude to bear the hardships and make the sacrifices necessary to crown our war efforts with a glorious victory and a righteous peace.

Prayer unites us to God and makes us truly acceptable to Him. Through prayer we can transform earth into Heaven. For that we can be truly grateful to God on this blessed Thanksgiving Day.



By **DR. ROBERT D. WHYTE**
The Old Stone Church, Presbyterian

FATHER EVERLASTING, on this national Thanksgiving Day, we give thanks for the beauty and bounty of our land; the faith and freedom and fraternity which are our heritage.



Help us we humbly pray in this hour of crisis and destiny to be worthier than we have been of our material and spiritual inheritance.

Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King, in defending it against ruthless and powerful foes that seek to subjugate us and destroy the principles and precious possessions of our religious and political faith.

Give victory, we humbly beseech Thee, to our armed forces fighting for a righteous cause.

Remember in Thy mercy the wounded and the prisoners, and as our prayers for them rise to Thee in passionate eagerness, may they descend in blessing upon them.

Bless our soldiers and sailors and airmen in their stern and sacrificial task, that the destiny of our nation and of all mankind may be accomplished in accordance with Thy divine will of liberty and justice and brotherhood and peace on earth—in the name of the Prince of Peace and the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

By **RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER**
The Temple

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Prayers for Thanksgiving

11-26-42

42-10

In keeping with President Roosevelt's proclamation designating Thanksgiving Day as a national Day of Prayer, the Plain Dealer presents the following prayers and addresses from religious leaders of Cleveland.

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By Archbishop Schrembs

By Archbishop Joseph Schrembs, head of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland:

"Through the scourge of war we have come closer to God this Thanksgiving than for many years past. In the midst of calamity we have turned instinctively to the only power that can free us of our trials and tribulations. Millions are calling on 'Our Father Who art in Heaven' who have never prayed before.

"The lesson has been costly but it has been well learned. We can be truly grateful that man has returned to God; that the creature has found his rightful place of dependence upon the Creator.

"A humble and contrite heart God will not despise. In humility and contrition we have sought His help and we confidently believe He has heard our prayer.

"On this Thanksgiving Day we feel that the tide of battle is turning our way. With God's blessing victory will crown the noble efforts of our heroic soldiers.

"Let us thank God for His favors on our knees. And when peace—blessed peace—comes, let us not forget our duty to our Creator. Grateful creatures do not turn to God alone in days of adversity but in days of prosperity are mindful of Him as well. It is in this way that we shall keep a perpetual Thanksgiving Day."

By Bishop Tucker

By Bishop Beverley D. Tucker of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio:

"Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew; we yield Thee unfeigned thanks and praise for the return of seed-time and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering of the fruits thereof, and for all the other blessings of Thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people.

"We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression, and that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations.

"Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to Thy law we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.

"In the time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

By Rabbi Silver

By Rabbi A. H. Silver of the Temple:

"Our Kind Father in Heaven:
"The Heavens declare Thy glory and our hearts echo their praise. Thou hast dealt graciously with us. Thou hast remembered our land and hast crowned the year with Thy goodness. Out of Thy bountiful stores blessings without number have come to us, food for our bodies, light for our minds and grace for our souls. All that we are and have and hope for are of Thee, and to Thee belong all praise and thanksgiving.

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