

# Proclamation – Thanksgiving Day – 1777

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This is the text of the  
Continental Congress November 1, 1777 national Thanksgiving Day Proclamation;  
as printed in the *Journals of Congress*.

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**Saturday, November 1, 1777**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1777

Mr. [William] Clingan, a delegate from Pennsylvania, attended and took his seat.

Congress proceeded to the choice of a president; and, the ballots being taken,

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Henry Laurens was elected.

The committee appointed to prepare a recommendation to these states, to set apart a day of thanksgiving, brought in a report; which was agreed to as follows:

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agreed to as follows:*

Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to him for benefits received, and to implore such farther blessings as they stand in need of; and it having pleased him in his abundant mercy not only to continue to us the innumerable bounties of his common providence, but also smile upon us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war, for the defense and establishment of our unalienable rights and liberties; particularly in that he hath been pleased in so great a measure to prosper the means used for the support of our troops and to crown our arms with most signal success:

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United States, to set apart Thursday, the 18th day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise; that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor; and that together with their sincere acknowledgments and offerings, they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they had forfeited every favor, and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance; that it may please him graciously to afford his blessings on the governments of these states respectively, and prosper the public council of the whole; to inspire our commanders both by land and sea, and all under them, with that wisdom and fortitude which may render them fit instruments,

And in the solemnity of this joyful season, let us all join with our Father in Heaven, and in words of praise and thanksgiving, praise him for his abundant mercies, not only to ourselves, as his merciful blessings of his common providence, but also to our fellow citizens in the possession of a just and peaceable way, for the more kindly judgment of our land, and the rights and liberties particularly in that so happily secured to us, and to the more diligent prosecution of the support of our troops, in the prosecution of a war, with our united arms. It is therefore recommended, that the legislative assembly of the province of these United States, do sit upon the eighteenth day of December next, to solemnly thank and praise him, with our united voices, for the good things he has done, the merciful feelings of our hearts, and to associate themselves to the prayers of our benefactors, and that they, with their wives, children, and servants, and all ranks, they may, from the personal testimony of their own hearts, where they feel his every favor, and their hands and hearts, in joyful thanksgiving, praise him, through the name of Jesus Christ, in all his fulness, and that them out of reverence, that it may please his personal love, and his blessing on the governments of these States, respectively, also prosper the public councils of the whole, to be to our common ends, they had set us, and all other things, with us, and to that which they receive from his instruments, under the mediation of Almighty God, in answer to their prayers, that in the midst of all his mercies, independence and peace, that it may please him to prosper the trade and manufactures of these provinces, and that it may please him to prosper the education, and to yield its increase, that which is necessary for the cultivation of the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety, and to prosper the works of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

And it is further recommended, that servile labor, and such recreation as, though at other times innocent, may be unbecoming the purpose of this appointment, be omitted on so solemn an occasion.

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under the providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States the greatest of all blessings, independence and peace; that it may please him to prosper the trade and manufactures of the people and the labor of the husbandman, that our land may yield its increase; to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety, under his nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for