

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."
- <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever."
- <sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever."

<sup>5</sup> When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; he brought me into a spacious place.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies.

<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans.

<sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

<sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

<sup>11</sup> They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

<sup>12</sup> They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

<sup>13</sup> I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

<sup>16</sup> The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"

<sup>17</sup> I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

<sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me;you have become my salvation.

- The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
- <sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

LORD, grant us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

From the house of the LORD we bless you.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

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# Gratitude: What is it?

### Robert A. Emmons

defines gratitude as having two parts: "(1)
 affirming goodness in one's life and (2)
 recognizing that the sources of this
 goodness lie at least partially outside the
 self."

 "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others." – Cicero

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- •St. Ignatius called ingratitude the "most abominable of sins" as it is "the cause, the beginning and origin of all sins and misfortunes."

# Gratitude: A Spiritual Discipline

#### Rom 1.21

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

# Gratitude: More Gift than Duty

# Henry Ward Beecher

• "If one should give me a dish of sand, and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how would it draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction.—The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings."

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