

**Thanksgiving Day**  
**Cycle A**  
**Revised**

**Deuteronomy 8:1-3,6-10 (17-20)**

The Book of Deuteronomy inaugurates a theme found throughout the “Deuteronomic History” (Joshua-2 Kings): God granted Israel tenure on the Land of Promise in return for Israel’s keeping the covenant law God commanded Moses. The term “Deuteronomy” (Greek: “second law”) derives from a misunderstanding by the Greek translator of Deuteronomy 17:18 where God requires the king to have his own copy of this law made for his use, a verse that nevertheless underscores the national importance the author laid on Israel’s keeping of the divine law.

**Psalms 65**

A *community thanksgiving*, this psalm was prayed after the answering of a *community lament* in which the congregation had admitted its sin before God and petitioned for relief from calamity--probably famine, as suggested by verses 9-14.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

The Jerusalem church practiced a particular kind of communalism in which believers with property sold it and presented the proceeds to the leaders of the church, thereby insuring that nobody languished in need (Acts 4:32-35). This practice may well have led to the collection Paul made among his churches for the relief of the Jerusalem Christians discussed in 2 Corinthians 8-9. Whereas chapter 8 appears to be a specific appeal to the Corinthians, some researchers believe chapter 9 is a general appeal Paul originally fashioned for another community. The Bible's wisdom literature contains exhortations to generosity with the promise that generosity ultimately leads to reward. See Proverbs 11:24-26; 22:9; *etc.* Paul, a Pharisee by training, would have known this tradition thoroughly and uses it here effectively. The readers should give joyfully without reluctance to receive abundance from God.

**Luke 17:11-19**

This is the second of two surprising sayings about faith. In 17:5-10, Paul defines faith in terms of self-effacing service of God. In this passage such faith appears in the ordinary human activity of the leper’s act of gratitude to Jesus. Faith, as this author presents it, is a matter of loyal service and profound gratitude. The text also takes this opportunity to stress the Lucan theme that those who demonstrate the greatest faith may often be found outside the confines of Israel.