

THOU CROWNEST THE YEAR WITH THY GOODNESS

Psalm 65:11 "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness."

Man is the crown of God's visible creation, and the Lord put everything into the hands of man, saying, "Have dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the earth," (Gen.1:28). The Psalmist was amazed at his own creation and said (Ps 139:14) , "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Luther describes this "wonderfully made" in his explanation to the first article of the Apostle's Creed with these words, "I believe that God has made me with all creatures, giving me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my faculties." The more we study the human body, the more we marvel at the love and goodness of the Creator.

In order to sustain and preserve man, the king and crown of creation, the Lord crowns and surrounds the year with His goodness and mercy. Even those who have no religious convictions can see this coronation take place every year.

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1. WE SEE THIS CROWN IN THE CALENDAR YEAR

In the springtime the world is aroused from sleep and puts on a beautiful green coat. The milk and butter are richest when the grass is tender. A multitude of fruits and vegetables begin to make their appearance at this pleasant time of the year. We are told how the Lord does all this, "Thou makest it soft with showers." (Ps 65:10) The results of this watering and showering are told us in v.3, "The pastures are clothed with flocks: the valleys are also covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing."



Following spring, the warm and pleasant days of summer arrive. Each day and each week bring with it some new food, some new joy, some new pleasure. An endless line of fruits and vegetables pass before our eyes. Each day seems to vie with the last in giving us a better display of the goodness and kindness of the Provider. After summer is past, the harvest days take their turn in glorifying the Preserver of all things, as our barns and storehouses begin to fill up and our arms become overloaded with another great harvest. This is an appropriate time to celebrate Thanksgiving and the Harvest Festival, to remind us of the wonderful blessings of our God, to remind us that "Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing," ([Ps 145:16](#)) Beautiful and invigorating winter! In this season water is stored up for the spring growth as nature takes a rest. "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness."



To the wonderful seasons of the year we must add the many luxuries and inventions which the Lord has given us in these last days of the world. We have automobiles, telephones, radios, television, electricity, household appliances, rubber, steel, coal, gas and oil; a list that is almost limitless. Consider also our wonderful hospitals and the marvelous advances of medicine. Forget not our good government and our freedom of religion. The Lord crowns our lives and years with such goodness and mercy that we burst forth in thanksgiving and say with the Psalmist (107), "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever."



2. WE SEE THIS CROWN IN THE CHURCH YEAR

Our Psalm not only speaks of the material gifts of the Lord, but also refers to the spiritual blessings, for we read in v.3, "Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away." The whole church year is built upon the foundation that we receive forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus Christ who suffered and died and paid for all our sins. The church year tells of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Savior whom the Father sent into this world to redeem us from all iniquity.

What Christian would ever want to give up the joyous Christmas Season, which proclaims the love of the Father in sending His Son into this world to redeem us that we might be rich forever? After hearing of the price which Jesus paid to save us during the solemn season of Lent, the glorious and joyous Easter season suddenly arrives with its message of the greatest hope. Easter proclaims the good news that Jesus rose from the dead, and that we also shall be raised from the grave to be with Him in glory.

How could we think of omitting the season of Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Ghost and the revival of our faith? On this birthday of the Christian Church we receive a new and burning zeal to

do the Lord's work and spread the Gospel of salvation unto the ends of the earth.

In the Trinity season the miracles and parables of our Lord pass before our eyes. Would we care to give up any part of it? The church year is a recital of the love of the blessed Trinity to us fallen sinners. Salvation by faith in the offering of Jesus on the cross is the theme and crown of the church year.

Added to all the other blessings which the Lord has given us, we have the pure truth and doctrines of His Holy Word. As a Church our prayer has always been in the words of [1 Kings 8:57](#), "The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us." He has answered our prayer. Truly we should raise our voices in thanks and praise to Him from whom all blessings flow.

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness." What effect should this have upon us? [Rom 2:4](#) tells us, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" God's kindness and mercy are so overwhelming that our cold hearts are melted and thawed, and we humbly thank Him for all His goodness. The older we get, the more the blessings pile up. The more years we live, the more we have to be thankful for. Every birthday should be a reminder of another year crowned with the goodness and forgiveness of our God, every birthday should be a day of thanks.

Some gifts of the Lord are of far more value to us than others. For example, Jesus says ([Matt 16:26](#)), "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Our Savior also told us which gifts should concern us most ([Matt 6:33](#)), "Seek ye first the kingdom of God (things of the church year) and his righteousness; and all these things (things of the calendar year) shall be added unto you." Let that be the chief concern of our lives, the salvation of our souls through faith in our Savior, and the Lord has solemnly promised us that He will care for all of our bodily needs.

Why does our Lord crown the year with so much goodness and mercy? Why did the Father permit His Son to wear a crown of thorns and bear the cross? Why did He make man the crown of creation? He did all this because He wants to give a crown of eternal life to His children. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"[\(Rev 2:10\)](#). Our lives, too, should be crowned with thankfulness and praise to Him from whom all blessings flow.

AMEN

PRAYER. O holy Trinity, forgive our sins of unthankfulness and ingratitude. Thou art truly wonderful and gracious and plenteous in mercy. O Lord, do not let Thine anger burn against us, although we have richly deserved it. Remember our sins no more, forgive us for Jesus' sake who died for us. Accept our humble thanks for all Thy mercies. To Thee, O Holy Trinity, be praise and glory, now and forevermore. AMEN.