

# *Devotional—day 10*

## *"All Good Gifts"*

### EPISCOPAL HYMN #138

We plow the fields, and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand.  
He sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine,  
And soft refreshing rain.  
*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all his love.*

He only is the Maker  
Of all things near and far;  
He paints the wayside flower,  
He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey him,  
By him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, his children,  
He gives our daily bread.

We thank thee, then, O Father,  
For all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food:  
No gifts have we to offer  
For all thy love imparts,  
But that which thou desirest,  
Our humble thankful hearts. Amen.

*~ Rev. Matthias Claudius, 1782*

### *Behind the Music...*

Schwartz was given Episcopal Hymnal No. 138 to use as lyrics for this song. Stephen Schwartz reported, "The song that struck home the most was 'All Good Gifts.' Just musically I hooked into something very heartfelt for me. It's the song about which I have the most passion."

## Matthias Claudius (1740-1815)

Born the son of a Lutheran pastor at Reinfeld, Germany. Claudius entered the University of Jena in 1759 as a theology student, but being in ill health, and finding little interest in his studies, he turned instead to law and languages. After a short visit to Copenhagen in 1768, he joined the Hamburg News Agency.

He later became editor of an influential literary magazine, and contributed a number of his poems to other publications. A number of his widely popular poems, which feature strong feelings and simple diction, were set to music. In 1776, he was appointed a Commissioner of Agriculture and Manufactures in Hessen-Darmstadt; then in 1777 made editor of the official Hessen-Darmstadt newspaper.



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### 2 Corinthians 9:9-11 (The Message)

**9** As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." **10** Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. **11** You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. **12** This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. **13** Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. **14** And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. **15** Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### Matthew 6:26 (The New Living Translation)

**26** Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are.

### Matthew 6:28b-30 (The New Living Translation)

**28b** Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, **29** yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. **30** And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you?

### Psalms 138:1-4 (The Message)

**1** Thank you! Everything in me says "Thank you!" Angels listen as I sing my thanks. **2** I kneel in worship facing your holy temple and say it again: "Thank you!" Thank you for your love, thank you for your faithfulness; Most holy is your name, most holy is your Word. **3** The moment I called out, you stepped in; you made my life large with strength. **4** When they hear what you have to say, God, all earth's kings will say "Thank you."

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## *Time for personal reflection (Day 10):*

In what ways has God provided for me through my involvement in this tour?

How will or can God use me through this tour to provide for others?

Meditate on 2 Corinthians 9:11-12 — How do I see God providing generously to me through this tour so that I, in turn, may supply the needs of others I will meet on tour? How will this look like an expression of thanks to God? How can I make sure it is an expression of thanks to God?

“We plow the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand.” - I am a farmer spreading the seed of God’s word through this tour, how can I remember to thank God for the harvest that I will never see?

*Time for personal reflection...*

I thank God for these good gifts...