Goodness Gracious!

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations” (Ps. 67:1–2)

If you are among the “gracefully aging,” you might anticipate hearing today’s title followed by Jerry Lee Lewis’s lyrics, “Great balls of fire (1957).” (Don’t bother to check the Lutheran Service Book.) But don’t let that throw you. “Goodness gracious” also served as a homey and self-controlled interjection uttered by moms (also 1957) when taken by surprise. Like the time you came home covered in coal dust. In Chicago. In July. But that’s another story—and she could have said much worse!

“Goodness gracious, great balls of blessings” would be a more appropriate and spiritual spin on the old song. And instead of hearing the whooping of a rock-and-roll wild man and watching him set a piano afire, David and his harp provide a more tranquil accompaniment by which to count God’s blessings.

So what in your ball of blessings set your heartstrings strumming?

[ Use this space to think of some good answers. ]

And what in your ball of blessings sets you ablaze with gratitude to God?

[ More space to think. ]

Martin Luther said, “We confess that God the Father has given us not only all that we have and what we see before our eyes, but also that he daily guards and defends us against every evil and misfortune, warding off all sorts of danger and disaster.” Were you to list your affirmations to Luther’s remark, you would marvel and savor hours of melodic strumming—almost enough to make you trust God even more than you already do. Goodness gracious!

Lagniappe for your devotional experience.

Written by Edward Grube, LL.D.
Director of Publications & Communications
© 2017 Lutheran Education Association

Quoted Scripture: ESV®

Read this devotion in PDF.

Access the library of devotions

The heart overflows with gladness and leaps and dances for the joy it has found in God. In this experience, the Holy Spirit is active, and has taught us in the flash of a moment the deep secret of joy. You will have as much joy and laughter in life as you have faith in God. – Martin Luther