

## CONCERNING UNGRATEFULNESS

—from the book *The Salvation of Sinners*—

They who are foolish do not acknowledge that the good things they possess have been given to them by God, but rather believe that they have acquired them through their own competence and power, thus rendering worship to themselves as if to an idol. Ungrateful wealthy people state that they became rich on account of their hard work and skillfulness. Similarly, ungrateful people attribute their health to their dietary choices and exercise regimen; their good looks to the genes inherited from their parents; their achievements and awards to their praiseworthy proficiency and deserving accomplishments. To say it simply, they never thank God, nor do they acknowledge the grace and blessings they receive from His divine goodness—from where all good things originate.

Let us acknowledge all the good things our Creator and Savior gives us. Let us exclaim along with Saint John of Damascus: “How shall we repay the Lord for all the blessings He has given us? On account of our corrupted nature, God became man and dwelt amongst us. The Savior came to them in captivity; the Benefactor came to the ungrateful ones; the Sun of righteousness came to them in darkness. He Who is boundless hung on the Cross; He Who is Life underwent death; He Who is Light descended into Hades, becoming the resurrection of them who had fallen.”

Let us thank, bless, and praise the Lord, the One and only triune God, our Creator, our Savior, and our magnanimous Benefactor, Who made the heaven, the earth, and the sea, and Who created everything contained therein. We thank You, O Lord, for bringing us into existence out of nothing, and for giving us this great, big universe to serve us. You gave us the earth to produce a variety of fruits and crops; the sun and the moon to provide us with light; the oceans, lakes, and rivers to provide us with food and water. Furthermore, we worship, glorify, and endlessly thank You for Your love and compassion; for renewing and refashioning the human race; for voluntarily becoming poor, accepting mortality, and embracing suffering, You Who are rich, eternal, and unchanging. You not only did all this for us, but You even chose to endure death in order to grant us immortality and restore us to our initial glory. We also thank you for the paramount offering of Holy Communion, through which we commune and partake of Your divine grace. On account of all these blessings, and the countless others gifts You impart to our souls and bodies daily, we thank You, we worship You, simultaneously appealing to Your compassion and beseeching You not to deprive us of Your Heavenly Kingdom; rather, through Your inherent goodness, deem us worthy of glorifying You, the One Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, along with Your angels and all Your faithful servants, unto the unending ages. Amen.

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