



DAY OF THANKSGIVING

November 26, 2020

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AS WE GATHER

A Day of National Thanksgiving is an honored tradition in this nation. But thankfulness to God is something that transcends national borders and the boundaries of time. God's people are always thankful people, for they know what great things He has done and continues to do for them. In Martin Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Creed, he states that in response to God's great gifts, it is the Christian's "duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him." Our worship is one way through which we carry out that joyful duty.

WELCOME

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 95:1-2; 100:4-5; 147:1, 7*

P: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
C: **Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**

P: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.
C: **Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!**

P: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
C: **For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.**

HYMN "We Praise You, O God" *LSB 785*

- We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.**
- We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: I will go to the altar of God,

C: to God my exceeding joy.

P: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C: **Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.

C: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of all things, we confess that we are indeed sinful. We have broken our fellowship with You and have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We have not lived lives that are continuing expressions of gratitude. We do repent and are truly sorry for all of our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Lord and the source of our salvation. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we live faithfully and with full thankfulness until that time when we rejoice together in Your eternal presence.**

P: God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord keep you steadfast in the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, grant you a spirit of ongoing thankfulness, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN "Now Thank We All Our God" *LSB* 895

**1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.**

**2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessèd peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!**

**3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.**

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PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and with the whole Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. Grant that we with thankful hearts receive Your great mercies and express our gratitude, not only with our lips but also in our lives as we give ourselves to Your service and walk before You in holiness and righteousness all our days. Give us faith that works in love, hope that never disappoints, kindness that never fails, confidence in You that never wavers, patience that does not grow weary, and courage always ready to confess Christ, that we live in Your mercy and die in Your peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 8:1–10*

(A call to remember the goodness of the Lord)

“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ²And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Timothy 2:1–4*

(Prayers and supplications are to be made for all people.)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 17:11–19* (One leper of ten healed shows gratitude to Jesus.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” *LSB 788*

- 1 **Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
 For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
 While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware:**
- 2 **Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,
 For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
 That shows Your message ever new and near.**
- 3 **Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,
 For words that speak at variance with deeds;
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways
 Unmindful of a broken brother’s needs:**
- 4 **Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
 That gives as Christ gave, never counting cost,
That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”
 Assured that only what’s withheld is lost.**
- 5 **Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
 For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,
For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast
 And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:**
- 6 **Open our eyes to see Your love’s intent,
 To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;
May thankfulness be days in service spent,
 Reflection of Christ’s life and love and light.**

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SERMON

CATECHISM

- P: Confessing faith and expressing thanks are completely linked together. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther underscored the theme of thankfulness in his explanation of the First Article of the Creed, which focuses on God the Creator. Together we say:
- C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
- P: What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.
- C: **For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.**
- P: He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.
- C: **For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.**
- P: He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.
- C: **For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

OFFERING and CONNECTION CARDS

OFFERTORY “Praise and Thanksgiving” [LSB 789]

- 1 **Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.**
- 2 **Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You
That with our neighbor We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,
Harvesting, milling For daily bread.**
- 3 **Father, providing Food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing
With us, all others May know Your care.**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord, on this day we thank You for Your bountiful gifts to all of us. We remember Your many acts of kindness to Your people through all ages. We bless You for the orderly progression of the seasons and thank You for the bountiful harvest of the fruits of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: We thank You for the Church, asking that the message of salvation joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world. Bless the work of missionaries, teachers, health workers, and all others who share their faith in countless ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We thank You for the world in which we live and pray for the community of nations. Continue to give us all things needful, and grant that we be good stewards of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We thank You for the gift of our families and everyone in them. Help us be truly thankful not only for the material blessings in our lives but for the people who share our lives with us. Grant that our homes be places of love and care and our neighborhoods be welcoming sanctuaries for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We thank You for the faithful labor of people living out their vocations for our welfare. Today we ask a special blessing on the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times and who guarantee our safety in times of peace. And we remember those whose labor brings food to our tables in this and in every season. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We thank You that Your care embraces all people as we remember those with special concerns and needs including the ill, hospitalized, and those shut-in, [*including . . .*], those who sorrow, the unemployed, and underemployed. Help us to find purpose and blessing in assisting those who need the care and compassion that we can offer them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, in our thankful remembrance we recall those no longer among us on earth, who now rejoice in the glorious light of Your heavenly kingdom. Grant that we be inspired by their faithful witness as we look forward to that time when we rejoice together at Your heavenly throne, giving You eternal thanks and praise. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“O Living Bread from Heaven” *LSB* 642

- 1** O living Bread from heaven, How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing, With praises overflows.
- 2** My Lord, You here have led me To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven, That now I shall not die.
- 3** You gave me all I wanted; This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit Bow down before Your throne.
- 4** Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened, To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.

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“For the Fruits of His Creation” [*LSB* 894]

- 1** For the fruits of His creation, Thanks be to God.
For His gifts to ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God.
- 2** In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3** For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give us hearts filled with thankfulness to You for all of Your mercies to be shown forth in our days and years. Direct our lives so that we share with others the many blessings we have received from You. Keep us steadfast and faithful until at last we complete our earthly pilgrimage and come to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

C: **Amen.**

HYMN “Sent Forth by God’s Blessings” *LSB* 643

- 1 Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.**

- 2 With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.**

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POSTLUDE

Organ – Kris Vocal – Lynn

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