

THANKSGIVING DAY
Thanking Our Father in Heaven
November 27 & 28, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Giving thanks should be natural; it should not require the designation of a national holiday. At least, that's what our heads say. Our hearts, unfortunately, fail to make the connection--all of our good gifts come from God the Father. Moses instructed Israel to be thankful as they entered the Promised Land; there they would have all they needed, unlike their painstaking years in the wilderness. At times, when we think that we are in need, hearts are anxious, minds are fixated. Paul instructs us in the Epistle to avoid anxiety. Prayer provides the opportunity to ask God for those things needful. Then by faith, we believe that God is connected to us, understands our wants, and provides our needs. From faith, thanksgiving exudes from our hearts and minds. Prayerfully we dare not get trapped into ingratitude and apathy like the nine lepers who failed to give thanks to the Healer--Jesus Christ.

In this Thanksgiving liturgy, we confess and explore the petitions of the Lord's Prayer and their explanations as they are drawn from the Small Catechism. In prayer, we approach the One who is worthy of our undivided gratitude.

6:00 PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Thanks Be To Thee"

Bell Choir

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #892 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His harvest home,
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away,
Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide;
Come with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: We give thanks to the Holy Trinity who alone creates, redeems, and sanctifies. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The eyes of all look to you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.

People: Give us this day our daily bread.

Pastor: You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

People: Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.

People: Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the reading from Deuteronomy, as the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land, Moses warned them that, after the rigors of the desert, the abundance they would experience might cause them to forget the commandments of the Lord, who had brought them to the land of milk and honey.

People: We confess that too often, in this time and in this good land, we expect blessings from our heavenly Father. For most of our lives we have had food on the table, clothes on our backs, and roofs over our heads. We stray in our complacency and forget His directives. We do not always strive to let His kingdom come to us or have His will be done among us. Forgive us our trespasses, heavenly Father.

Pastor: Even in prison Paul wrote to His brothers and sisters in Christ, encouraging them to be thankful in all circumstances.

People: We confess that we let illness, bad weather, and economic slumps magnify our anxiety. Instead of hallowing God's name in prayer we rely on our own contrived plans and resolute strength to strive for the lifestyle we desire. We allow ourselves to be led into temptation by society's fixation on materialism and success. Forgive us our trespasses, heavenly Father.

Pastor: When ten lepers were healed in today's Gospel, only one returned thanks to Jesus.

People: We confess that when we have been delivered from evil of any sort, be it of body or soul, possessions or reputation, in our self-centeredness we focus on our sense of relief. Instead of returning thanks we are only aware of our personal comfort and gain. Forgive us our trespasses, heavenly Father.

Pastor: Paul was inspired to write, ". . . God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Indeed, in Christ, both our daily concerns and eternal hopes have been met in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. By the grace of God we can be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: To our God and Father be all glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #893 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds rain goodness, The deserts bloom and spring,
The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with His fullness, All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, The soul Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him Who gave His life for all.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, your mercies are new every morning and you graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul.

People: Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience all our days;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Deuteronomy 8:1-10 (*In the good land remember God's fatherly care.*) Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may

enter and possess the land that the Lord promised on oath to your forefathers. Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you. Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and revering him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

EPISTLE Philippians 4:6-20 (*God will supply every need.*) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus, the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

6:00 ANTHEM

"Now Thank We All Our God"

St. Paul's Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 17:11-19 (*Only one leper returns thanks.*) Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him – and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #785 “We Praise You, O God”

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 father, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o’er take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

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!

SERMON “Thank God!” Deuteronomy 8:1- 10

(Rise)

CREED *Apostles' Creed, First Article and Meaning*

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: 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. 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. 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. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

6:00 BELL ANTHEM “Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus, and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #922 “Go My Children, With My Blessing”

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.

In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, Saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;

Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.

Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.

I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolyte

Organist

Music Coordinator

Choir Director

Bell Choir Director

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Virginia Sell, John Ficken

Alexander Maxwell, Abigail Fellenbaum

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller

Nancy Hoelke

Jan Schneider