

DAY OF THANKSGIVING
Worship in the Name of Jesus
November 25 & 26, 2015

AS WE GATHER

Turkey. Mashed potatoes. Stuffing. Cranberry sauce. Pie. In the United States, our National Day of Thanksgiving is closely linked to feasting. For many, Thanksgiving is about time with family and friends gathered before a feast. What a blessing! Before we feast around our dining room tables today, however, it's fitting that we first gather around God's word, and especially the Gospel. In faith, we approach our Lord with the same words of the men with leprosy in today's Gospel as they plead, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us," confident that our Lord does lavish His mercy on us. That is something for which to give thanks!

WELCOME

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.
Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
(1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✘ PREPARATION ✘

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

Pastor: In many ways, this proclamation, made by President Abraham Lincoln, set the precedent for America's National Day of Thanksgiving. "The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those

who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." Today, we join in giving thanks and praise to our loving heavenly Father.

HYMN #895 "Now Thank We All Our God" *Rise for last stanza*

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.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed 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!

(Rise) 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.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 67:5-7*

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God;

People: let all the peoples praise You!

Pastor: The earth has yielded its increase;

People: God, our God, shall bless us.

Pastor: God shall bless us;

People: let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Deuteronomy 8:6*

Pastor: So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God

People: by walking in His ways and by fearing Him.

Pastor: We recognize today that we have broken the Lord's commandments. Rather than be thankful, we have been greedy and unsatisfied with the many blessings we have received from our heavenly Father. As people who are by nature sinful and unclean, we have coveted our neighbor's house, wife, and other possessions. We confess today our lack of contentment and all sin.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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: 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. God of mercy,

People: Your Son cared for the needs of those plagued by leprosy, giving them physical healing. We thank you for providing for our needs of both body and spirit so that we might live lives of contentment as your forgiven people; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

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☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 8:1–10 (*“Man does not live on bread alone.”*)

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 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 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.

6:00 CHOIR ANTHEM *“Come Ye Thankful People, Come”* Joel Raney

9:00 SOLO *“A Faithful Shepherd Is My Lord”* Pastor Hinz

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 17:11–19 (*Jesus heals the ten lepers.*)

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)

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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 “Martin Luther’s Thanksgiving” Philippians 4:4-7

(Rise)

CATECHISM *The First Article*

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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

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(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: The apostle Paul writes, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” We now come before the Lord in prayer with thanksgiving. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you have made me and all creatures. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you have given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and you still take care of them. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you give me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you richly and daily provide me with all that I need to support this body and life. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you defend me against all danger and guard and protect me from all evil. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, all this you do 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 you. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, so often we find ourselves like the nine lepers who, even though they were healed, failed to return and give thanks for their cleansing. Your Son has saved us from sin and has washed us of the leprosy of sin. Like the one who returned, help us to fall at your feet in thanksgiving. Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, there are so many in our community, nation, and world who are without food, clothing, or shelter. Move us we pray, to a compassion that reaches out to help in many and practical ways that You would be glorified. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

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People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, there are so many in our community, nation, and world who are without the spiritual food, clothing, and shelter of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Move us, we pray, to a compassion that reaches out in witness and word, in deed and in sharing your love for all people in your Son. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer of thanksgiving for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Psalm 67:1*

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us

People: and make His face to shine upon us.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #894 "For the Fruits of His Creation"

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.

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.

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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Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolyte (Thurs.)
Organist
Choir Director
Bell Choir Director
Soloist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Harold Bender
John Ficken, Jim Laux
Laura Quigley
Roger Gottschalk
Nancy Hoelke
Matt Compton
Pastor Emeritus Thomas Hinz
Kim Woller

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Advent Worship
Wednesday, December 2
10:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Dinner served at 4:45 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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