

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

November 25, 2020

PRESERVICE SLIDES:

1. 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...
2. God's people are always thankful people, for they know what great things He has done and continues to do for them...
3. In Martin Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Creed, he states that in response to God's great gifts...
4. 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.

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.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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.

HYMN No. 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 souls 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning, and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. 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; through 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)

[1] “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. [2] And 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. [3] And 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. [4] Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. [5] Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. [6] So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. [7] For 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, [8] a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, [9] a 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. [10] And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 1:18-21 (God's Wrath on Unrighteousness)*

[18] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. [19] For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. [20] For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. [21] For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Claiming to be wise, they became fools.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Psalm 145:15-16*

**L: Alleluia. The eyes of all look to You, O Lord,
 and You give them their food in due season.**

C: You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Alleluia

**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 No. 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
Whole-some 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.**

SERMON “Moving Toward Gratitude” Romans 1:20-21 Pastor Vern

CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose
kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING

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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He is our good and faithful Master who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy, ” LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth
Heav’n and earth are full of Your glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

P: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven...

PERSONAL PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT (Silent prayer)

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: With the very words of Christ we consecrate and partake of this sacred meal.

P: 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."

(Let us eat together the body of Christ.)

P: 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."

(Let us drink together from the cup of salvation, the blood of Christ shed for our sins.)

PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather in the fruits of the earth. We are thankful for the greatest gift of all Your Son in with and under this bread and wine. As stewards of Your creation, move us to receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

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.

C: Amen.

SENDING

P: Now go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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!

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.