

THANKSGIVING EVE

November 25, 2021

7:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION AND INVOCATION

P: Thanksgiving is a vital part of every Christian's daily prayers. For that reason we do not need a special day to offer thanks to our God. However, in our weakened spiritual state, we often find ourselves neglecting this important aspect of our Christian life, hence we need this annual reminder. Also, since there are those in our land who have forgotten the blessings of God we have received throughout our history, it is a good thing to join hands with the people of our land to thank God who has never abandoned us. He is the God who forgives us for our forgetfulness, and continually showers us with blessings we do not deserve.

So on this special day set apart by our nation's forefathers, let us humbly come before Him to thank and praise Him for His steadfast love and care. Our service of thanksgiving begins: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE DAY

L. In the first year of the presidency of George Washington in 1789, a Day of National Thanksgiving was set aside for the last Thursday of November. Since that time, Americans have celebrated this day in remembrance of all the blessings which God has poured down upon this nation and her citizens.

In the presidential proclamation for Thanksgiving Day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had this to say:

"It is the duty of nations as well as of citizens to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord....

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that God 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 as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP FOR THANKSGIVING

L. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
C. God's steadfast love endures forever.

L. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.
C. Make known God's deeds among the peoples!

L. God blesses us with gifts of love:
C. With food and clothing, home and family.

L. God blesses us with daily work:
C. And all we need from day to day.

L. God protects us in time of danger:
C. And guards us from every evil.

L. God calls us into relationship with him:
C. And forms us into one holy people in Christ.

L. Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.
C. O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

**SONG OF PRAISE "10,000 Reasons" W&M by Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman
c.2011 Thankyou Music CCLI Song # 6016351 CCLI # 691913**

**Chorus: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before, O my soul
 I'll worship Your holy name**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes (Chorus)**

**You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find (Chorus)
And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore (Chorus)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. Let us pray. Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen

RESPONSE

L. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
C. My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

L. For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
C. From this day all generations will call me blessed.

L. The Almighty has done great things for me.
C. And holy is his name. (Luke 1:46-49)

HYMN No. 895 "Now Thank We All Our 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.

The 1st READING for our Thanksgiving Eve Service is from the Book of Lamentations, the 3rd Chapter. 3:17-33

My soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "My endurance has perished;
so has my hope from the LORD."

Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!
My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.

Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;
let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;
let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not
cast off forever,
but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

P: This is the Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God.

2nd READING is from Psalm 100.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, he is God!**

**It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

**For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Luke, the 17th Chapter. (Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers)

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

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE "Why Give Thanks?"

Pastor Vern

OFFERING This offering will be taken tonight and brought to the altar as we sing:

HYMN No. 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 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.**

**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!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L. Let us pray.

C. O God, who desires good for all creatures, satisfy our hunger not just for food, but for freedom, truth, justice and love.

O Risen Christ, you revealed yourself to us as one who gives to the poor and cares for all people. We dedicate our lives and our offerings to your service.

O Holy Spirit, bless these gifts and abide in our hearts so that our gifts and our actions may live out our faith, glorify God, and bring forth a fruitful harvest for the kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

LITANY FOR THANKSGIVING

L: As the pioneers of the Plymouth colony gathered around the feasting table with native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for all that they had been given by our Bountiful Provider, so we too gather on this Eve of Thanksgiving to offer thanks for all the gifts which our Lord has seen fit to give us, especially for our country, our state and our town.

Almighty and Generous God, we bring before You, in our hearts and on our Thanksgiving table, the gifts and blessings which You have given us this year. And, in humble gratitude, we give You thanks for them. We thank You as well for the blessings which come to us through the peace and prosperity of our nation, our state and our town.

C. We praise You, and we thank You, O God.

L. We acknowledge that as we have greatly received, so are we responsible. Therefore, O Lord, keep us from being unfaithful in our lives as citizens of this nation and as recipients of all that past generations of Americans have bequeathed to us. Help us to be worthy stewards of all You have given us that with every added blessing we may share from the bounty of Your rich blessings.

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To all the high desires of the pioneers who came that they might freely worship God in Spirit and Truth without persecution or oppression,

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To their sacrifice and hope of building a better future for common people:

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To their passion for freedom and their readiness to die in its defense:

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To their scorn of tyranny, and their trust in men and women to rule themselves:

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

**L. To their vision of a human commonwealth
in which the people of many lands may share:**

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

**L. To their release from the prejudice of an old world and to their hope of building an
ever-increasing just and peace-loving society.**

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. As our ancestors trusted in You, O Lord, and You delivered them:

C. Keep us ever close to you.

**L. Lord of the nations, guide our people by Your Spirit to go forward in justice and
freedom. Give us what outward prosperity may be Your will, but above all things
give us faith in You, that our nation may bring glory to Your name and blessings to
all peoples; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

C. Amen

L. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.

BLESSINGS FOR THANKSGIVING

L. May the Lord of all creation shower his blessings and favor upon you.
C. Amen

L. May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table
with His presence and fill your loved ones with peace.
C. Amen

L. May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days
until you come into the joys of his eternal kingdom.
C. Amen

L. And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
C. Amen

HYMN No. 965 "God Bless Our Native Land"

God bless our native land!
Firm may she ever stand
Thro' storm and night!
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry,
God save the State! Amen.

SENDING P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!