

**Thanksgiving Eve  
November 22, 2023  
7:00 PM**

**INVOCATION**

**P: In the name of the Father and of the X 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."**

**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,  
the Church of the Lord Jesus 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.**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**P: Lord, too often our prayers  
Are filled with impatience over what we want  
Instead of gratitude for what we already have.**

**C: Remind us today and in the coming year  
What is truly important.**

**P: Remind us to give thanks for family and friends.**

**C: Remind us to be grateful for the work you have given us.  
Remind us to appreciate our many material blessings.**

**P: Most of all, remind us today and every day  
To give thanks for your precious Son Jesus,**

**C: And the sacrifice he made for us  
To give us eternal life with You in heaven. Amen.**

**P: Blessed be God, because he has not rejected our prayers  
or removed his steadfast love from us! (Psalm 66:20). Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
your faith has made you well. Receive the healing and forgiving love God has given  
us through His beloved Son, Jesus. Live no longer in fear of judgment but joyfully  
serve others, with thanksgiving, as He has served us; in the name of the Father and  
of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: Amen.**

### **HYMN "God of our Fathers"**

**God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.**

**Thy love divine hath led us in the past,  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide, and Stay,  
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.**

**From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever-sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine!

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER**    written by Mary Fairchild

**P:**     Heavenly Father,  
**C:**     on Thanksgiving Day  
         We bow our hearts to You and pray.

We give You thanks for all You've done  
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.

For beauty in nature, Your glory we see  
For joy and health, friends and family,

For daily provision, Your mercy, and care  
These are the blessings You graciously share.

So today we offer this response of praise  
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

**ANTHEM**                    "Now Thank We All Our God"                    **Adult Choir**

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**                    **Philippians 4:6-20**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**C: Thanks be to 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.**

**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!**

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!**

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

**OFFERING    “Glorious Nature”    Poem by Muriel Mayer**

**Glorious Nature** On this beautiful fall day in November, as I sit in my lounge chair looking out the window, I behold nature’s glory at its finest. The tall sweetgum tree nearby is truly an array of orange, red, golden yellow, and a dab of green. The background is simply a cloudless sky offering a contrast of a striking “sky blue”. The artist has meticulously dabbed His brush into each color on the palette and filled the tree with fall’s brilliance . God has truly blessed us with His best. The change of seasons reveals another of His great gifts to mankind. Stop! Pause! Admire! GIVE THANKS!

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**L. Let us pray. Lord of Creation,**

**C:    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**

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

**P: Gracious God, you supply us with blessings beyond our deserving. We thank you for your creation, and every sign of your presence within it, for Your everlasting grace and forgiveness, for the risen Lord who has gone before us and calls us to follow Him.**

**C: Accept our thanks, O God.**

**P: For our homes and our loved ones, for work to do and strength to do it, for moments of gladness that sparkle our day,**

**C: Accept our thanks, O God.**

**P: For Your gift of faith and all that sustains it, for contentment in all things, for all whose lives and examples have persuaded us that the journey is worth the taking, for Your caring discipline that keeps our faith pure,**

**C: Accept our thanks, O God.**

**P: For those times when your plans are not our plans, where Your answer to our prayers is not the answer we desire, for those times where your leading follows us into places we never expected to go.**

**C: Accept our thanks, O God.**

**P: For the depths of the sea where our sin and falseness lies buried, for the guiding comfort of your Holy Spirit, for the powerful promise of life everlasting,**

**C: Accept our thanks, O God,**

**P: For yours is the glory forever and ever.**

**C: Amen**

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

**Pastor: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, 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**

**P: May the Lord of all creation shower his blessings and favor upon you.**

**C: Amen**

**P: May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with his presence  
and fill your loved ones with peace.**

**C: Amen**

**P: May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days  
until you come into the joys of his eternal kingdom.**

**C: Amen**

**P: And may almighty God, Father, X Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.**

**C: Amen**

**HYMN No. 965 "God Bless Our Native Land" (audio instrumental)**

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 with Thanksgiving in your hearts and Praise on your lips, to the glory and honor of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C:** Thanks & Praise be to God!