

November  
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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Words from the Cross

*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."*

Luke 17:17-19

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I thought I would share some of Luther's words on the topic of thanksgiving:

A Christian's principal aim and purpose should be to praise God, to magnify Him as the sole Creator and Lord of all that is in heaven and earth; not only because He has created us, but because He has made everything for our service and benefit. Sun, moon must give us light by day and night; the heavens must give us rain, clouds, shade and dew; the earth must yield us various plants and animals; water must supply us with fish and countless necessities; the air must give us fowl and our breath; the fire must warm and serve us in many other ways. Who can enumerate all the gifts of God?

Of course, the greatest gift of all is the grace of God shown us in Jesus Christ, who suffered and died in our place to save us. By faith in Him we have the highest good, namely, the forgiveness of all our sins and the promise of everlasting life. Like the Samaritan leper, our cause was hopeless, but Jesus was and is merciful, so what can we do but offer up our praise and thanksgiving, honoring Him with our voices and with our lives by showing the same mercy to others as He has shown to us. May God grant a blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Skelton



***The Lord has done  
great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.***

*Psalm 126:3*