

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 harm 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, who earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

YOUR SILENT PRAYER

THANKSGIVING VESPERS

November 25, 2020

O Give Thanks to the Lord

A CALL TO WORSHIP: *Adapted from the Thanksgiving Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. This is spoken from the back of the church.*

STAND

P: "It is the duty of nations as well as of people to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God;

C: to confess their sin 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!

P: We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven;

C: 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.

P: But we have forgotten God.

C: 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.

P: it has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged,

C: as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people.

P: 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,

C: to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwells in the heavens."

THE INVOCATION

P: In the Name of the living and faithful God: Father, Son (+), and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

THE HYMN OF CONFESSION

1. Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for worldly wealthiness,
While of your richer gifts we're unaware.
2. Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ your Son, and for each human face
That shows your message ever new and near.
3. Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,
For words that speak at variance with deeds;
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways,
Unmindful of a broken brother's needs.
4. Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
That gives as Christ gave, never counting cost,
That knows no barrier of yours and mine,
Assured that only what's withheld is lost.
5. Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,
For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast
And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:
6. Open our eyes to see your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;
Let thankful days in loving labor spent
Reflect the truly Christ-like life and light.

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THE DECLARATION OF GRACE

- P:** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them His Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C:** **Amen, which means, "Yes, Yes, it shall be so!"**

LSB #788

Men: food and drink

Women: clothing and shoes

Men: house and home

Women: land and animals

Men: money and goods

Women: devout husband

Men: devout wife

Women: devout children

Men: devout workers

Women: devout and faithful rulers

Men: good government

Women: good weather

Men: peace, health, self-control,

Women: good reputation, good friends,

ALL: Faithful neighbors, and the like.

THE BLESSING

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C: And His mercy endures forever.

P: The Lord, bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you + peace.

C: Amen!

P: Go in peace. Live by faith. Give Thanks and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen!

THE CLOSING

(sing)

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!

LSB #895

ALL: 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.

(sing) Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with His love He befriend you.

ALL: For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

(sing) Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the "Amen" sound from His people again, gladly forever adore Him!

THE OFFERING & A THANKSGIVING HYMN

LSB #789

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor we bring to serve you
That with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with You,
Harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Father, providing food for your children,
By Your wise guiding teach us to share
One with another, so that, rejoicing,
With us, all others may know Your care.

THE THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

P: Let us pray...Give us this day our daily bread.

C: God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people.

P: Give us this day our daily bread.

C: But we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

P: Give us this day our daily bread.

C: Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as:

A HYMN

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.

LSB #785

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!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...

ALL: Lord of seedtime and of harvest, we thank You for the blessings You grant to the earth in each season. We rejoice in the wonderful richness of the land and in the astounding variety of food it produces to delight and satisfy us. We ask for one thing more, the willingness to share our blessings, so that all the earth can rejoice in your generosity. This we ask in the great name of Jesus. Amen.

P: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God.

C: Jesus Christ is the Word of God, made flesh for us. He is the Bread of Life.

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy the eighth chapter; "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. 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. 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. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. 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, a land

of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 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. And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR MEDITATION ON THE LESSON

THE EPISTLE

1 Timothy 2:1-4

The Epistle is from Paul first letter to Timothy, the second chapter; "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR MEDITATION ON THE LESSON

THE GOSPEL

Luke 17:11-19

P: The holy Gospel according to the 17th chapter of Luke.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] 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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN: **"For the Fruits of His Creation"**

LSB #894

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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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THE SERMON: **"Still Able to Give Thanks"**

Joel 2:12-17 & Habakkuk 3:17-19

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH BY ALL WHO BELIEVE

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

(sing) Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!

LSB #790

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear, now to His temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!

ALL: 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.

(sing) Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning

And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen all that is needful has been

Sent by His gracious ordaining?