

THANKSGIVING EVE

All that is good has come from God!

November 24, 2021

AS WE GATHER

"They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwelling against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength, and had all things in good plenty; for as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All summer there was no want. And now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first, but afterward decreased by degrees. And besides water fowl, there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides they had about a peck a meal a week to a person, and now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion.

---And thus they found the Lord to be with them in all their ways, and to bless their out-goings and in-comings..."

(Governor William Bradford writes about the background for the Pilgrim's first Thanksgiving in the fall of 1621, their first fall in the New World.)

††† ††† ††† ††† ††† ††† †††

The LORD's SUPPER, also known as the "Eucharist" (meaning "Thanksgiving") is God's gift to us in Jesus Christ. This will be celebrated this evening at Messiah. We believe in the Biblical teaching that we receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). If you have any questions about partaking in this Holy Sacrament, please speak with a pastor.

Children and other attendees who have not yet had instruction to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward with folded hands to receive a blessing.

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† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

INVOCATION

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

LSB 892

1 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.

2 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
 Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 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.

4 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.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the
People: Amen.

Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord!

Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 9:1-2

Pastor: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart!

People: I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

Pastor: I will be glad and exult in you;

People: I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Hymn

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

LSB 806

1

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son. (2x)

2

And now let the weak say “I am strong,”
Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us. (2x)
Give thanks, give thanks.

Old Testament Reading

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 4:6-9

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, 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.

⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us

the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

LSB 893

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

Sermon

“You Have A Place”

John 14:1-11

Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

LSB 895

(*stand at end - remain standing)

1 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.

2 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!

* 3 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.

Offering

Prayers

Pastor: Almighty God, You are like an eternal fountain that gushes forth abundantly nothing but what is good. Your love, though undeserved, still abundantly provides for all our wants of body and soul. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit so that we may passionately acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us and serve You every day of our lives.

People: Thank You, Lord, Your love endures forever.

Pastor: Thank You for the strength of Your Church with its ministry of the Word and Sacraments. Thank You for richly and daily providing Your Church with caring pastors and teachers so that we may grow in our faith in Jesus Christ and the understanding of Your will.

People: Thank You, Lord, Your love endures forever.

Pastor: Thank You for the government and leaders You have provided for our protection. Thank You for providing Your wisdom for us and for our president, our governor, and all national, state, and local leaders as well as the leaders of the church, so that we might follow Your Will in the Holy Scriptures.

People: Thank You, Lord, Your love endures forever.

Pastor: Thank You for Your provision of all that we have and all that we are. Thank You for giving us a society that may be able to obtain moral strength, integrity, and vibrancy in You.

People: Thank You, Lord, Your love endures forever.

Pastor: Thank You for giving us peace through Your Son, Jesus Christ as we live out our lives on earth, thank You for healing our divisions with understanding and efforts to seek peace and community.

People: Thank You, Lord, Your love endures forever.

Pastor: Thank You for caring for us during times of illness and sorrow, pain, and loss. Thank you for being there for those who continue to be in such need, especially.... Thank You for often being their comfort and supporting them according to Your good and gracious will.

People: Thank You, Lord, Your love endures forever.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, grateful for Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

† SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †

PREFACE TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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. 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

P 195

C Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the lord.
Ho-san-an in the high-est.

PRAYER

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Thank You for forgiving, renewing and strengthening us in your Word and Spirit. Gather us together daily, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with the unity only found in You. Fill us with thanksgiving, gratitude, fellowship, and warmth especially in this cold, dark season.

People: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

People: 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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

LSB 686

**1 Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.**

**2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.**

**3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.**

**4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;**

Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

“We Praise You, O God”

LSB 785

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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!

“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.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

THANK THE LORD

Sing: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage. Watch over us as Your children, not forsaking us, but ruling our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we may gratefully serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

CLOSING HYMN "Praise and Thanksgiving"

LSB 789

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

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Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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**Those Serving In
The Worship Service**

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Preacher | Rev. Joshua Schmidt |
| Liturgist | Rev. Michael Redeker |
| Elders | Peter Chaney. John O'Connor |
| Organist | Marilyn Smith |
| Acolytes | Zoe Hill, Zoie Magner |