

DAY OF THANKSGIVING

Where Are the Nine?
November 22 & 23, 2023

AS WE GATHER

On this day of national Thanksgiving, God invites us on a journey of giving thanks. Amidst the busyness of our daily lives, there are times when we are like the nine, who, healed as they were, simply did not return and give thanks to Jesus. The despised Samaritan, an outsider entirely, serves to remind us that real gratitude often comes from some of the least likely people. Most of all, Luke 17 reminds us of the Good News—God telling us that we are indeed broken but that He promises to continue being His good and gracious self. God’s generosity to us knows no bounds. Thanks be to God!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #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 Wholesome 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.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: Let Israel say,

People: “His steadfast love endures forever.”

Pastor: Let the house of Aaron say,

People: “His steadfast love endures forever.”

Pastor: Let those who fear the LORD say,

People: “His steadfast love endures forever.”

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: With abundant generosity, God created the universe, the earth, all creatures, and each of us. He daily blesses and sustains us and all creation. Yet by our sin, God’s good creation is broken. So let us confess our sin and hear again God’s re-creating word of forgiveness.

People: We confess to you, O Lord, that we are naturally inclined to sin and self-centeredness. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. In addition to the wrong things we have done, we have also left many good things undone. And like the nine lepers, we fail to thank you as we should.

Pastor: Take heart! Jesus has come to forgive your sins and He will one day return and make all creation new. With joy, I, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus, declare to you His forgiveness. By the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever! Alleluia!

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **Refrain**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, our Creator, your generosity exceeds our imaginations.

People: Fill us with thankfulness for your divine goodness and mercy, so that our hearts overflow with generosity in our homes, churches, and communities;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 8:1–10* (Moses calls on the Israelites to bless God for His faithfulness.) “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. ²And 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. ³And 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.

⁴Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty

years. ⁵Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For 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, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a 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. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:6–20* (Paul encourages the Philippians to pray and give thanks to the God who sustains them in all troubles.) 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. ¹⁰I 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. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I 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. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 17:11–19* (Jesus generously heals ten lepers. A Samaritan is the Only one who thanks Him.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #806 “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

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.

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.

Give thanks, give thanks.

SERMON

(Rise)

CATECHISM *Explanation to the First Article*

Pastor: 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.

Men: He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

Women: He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

Pastor: He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

People: All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Filled with gratitude for all of God's mercy and provision, let us pray for the Church, for our nation, for our local community, and for our own needs, filled with thanksgiving that Jesus has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. For the Church throughout the world,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For the pastors, teachers, and all church workers of our Synod,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For missionaries far away and in difficult circumstances in our own nation,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For the elected leaders of our nation, state, and local community,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For doctors and nurses, fire fighters and police officers, construction and restaurant workers, teachers and counselors, and everyone else who contributes to the well-being of our community,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For Your presence with those who are sick, dying, or mourning,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For the people in our lives who love us and those we are called to love—families, friends, co-workers, and neighbors,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For safe travel for those gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving Day,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For the ongoing generosity of this congregation, which provides Word and Sacrament ministry, Christ-centered community, and service to our neighbors,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For the life and witness of those who have gone before us in faith and now rest from their labors eternally in the arms of Jesus,

People: we give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: We entrust our prayers to you, gracious Father, who with your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit reign forever as God of all.

People: Amen.

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #956

“Create In Me”

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Amen.

HYMN #629

“What Is This Bread”

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:

This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.

O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!

O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?

My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?

O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,

In mouth and soul He makes us whole Christ, truly present in this meal.

O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.
O taste and see the Lord is good.

HYMN #948 “All Glory Be to God Alone”

All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest one,
Who did our sinful race befriend And grace and peace to us extend.
Among us may His gracious will All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.
We praise You God; Your name we bless And worship You in humbleness;
From day to day we glorify The everlasting God on high.
Of Your great glory do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.
Lord God, our King on heaven’s throne, Our Father, the Almighty One.
O Lord, the solebegotten One, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son,
True God from all eternity, O Lamb of God, to You we flee.
You take the whole world’s sin away; Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the whole world’s sin away; O Lord, receive our prayer this day.
From God’s right hand Your mercy send, To all the world Your grace extend.
You only are the Holy One And over all are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;
With Him You evermore shall be One in the Father’ majesty.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, as Jesus healed all ten lepers, so you graciously provide for all of us gathered here today. You bless all creation with your gracious provision. Guide our hearts and minds to acknowledge all your gifts and to live in constant thanksgiving to you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #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.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lector Wednesday
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Marc Stefanic
Deaconess King

to you and
your family!!

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Thanksgiving
Blessings