

A Thanksgiving Service of Psalms, Lessons & Hymns



Image from a Jewish scroll depicting the Israelites' thankful offerings to the Lord (Deuteronomy 26:1-11)

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 26, 2014

WORSHIP CHOIR

Come with Thanksgiving *Based on Psalm 100*

Come into His courts with thanksgiving and praise!
Give thanks to the Lord for His excellent ways!
God's love is forever, He is faithful all our days.
Our songs of thanksgiving we joyfully raise!

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.

Worship the Lord, shout with joy and gladness!
Come and sing joyful songs!
Know that the Lord has created and claimed us.
We are His people, so lift up your voices and sing!

With voices united our praises we offer;
Our songs of thanksgiving to You we now raise.
Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us;
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!
Our songs of thanksgiving we joyfully raise!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Our Cheerful and Thankful Response to God's Gifts

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in

every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Please Stand

Psalm 67

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm. A song.

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us

C: **and make his face shine upon us,**

M: that your ways may be known on earth,

C: **your salvation among all nations.**

M: May the peoples praise you, O God;

C: **may all the peoples praise you.**

M: May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

C: **for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.**

M: May the peoples praise you, O God;

C: **may all the peoples praise you.**

M: Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

C: **God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

Please Be Seated

HYMN

For the Fruit of His Creation
Christian Worship #611

Luke 12:15-21

Our Attitude Toward Earthly Possessions

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will

store all my grain and my goods.' And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Please Stand

Psalm 16

A miktam (prob. a literary or musical term) of David.

M: Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.

C: I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”

M: As for the saints who are in the land,

C: they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.

M: The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.

C: I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

M: LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.

C: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

M: I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

C: I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

M: Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

C: because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

M: You have made known to me the path of life;

C: you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Please Be Seated

HYMN

We Thank You For Your Blessings
Christian Worship #615

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A Review of the Lord’s Blessings Leads to Giving Thanks

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us.” The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: “My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a

great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labor. Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me.” Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

The Offering

Thanksgiving to God for His Many Blessings

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Voluntary on the Doxology
Arr. by Drummond Wolff

Please stand to sing as the offerings of God's people are brought to the altar.

HYMN

We Give Thee But Thine Own
Christian Worship #485 st. 1-2

1. We give thee but thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2. May we thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive

All that we have is thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.
And glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, To thee our first - fruits give.

Thanksgiving Prayer

M: Heavenly Father, when you open your hand, you satisfy the desires of every living thing. May your name be praised and your grace glorified. Today we remember with joy the gifts you provide for us. Again and again you pour on us all that we need for daily living: health, strength, companionship, and all our material blessings. We thank you especially for the incomparable spiritual blessings you have given us through your Son. It is true that every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.

Yet we are greedy and ungrateful. We complain and worry. Forgive us for these and all our sins in the name of Jesus. Prevent our many blessings from becoming Satan's trap to ensnare us. Keep our minds on things above, not on earthly things.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, pour out your Spirit on us. Bless us all with a faith that seeks first your kingdom and your righteousness. Assure us that you will supply all our other needs as well. Make us bold to give as generously as you have given to us.

Be with your people wherever they might be on this holiday. Protect those who are traveling. Cheer the hearts of the lonely, comfort those who sorrow, and look with compassion on the poor and needy.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Fill us today and every day with a humble and grateful faith that sincerely prays, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Amen.

Blessing

Psalm 125:1-2

A song of ascents.

M: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.
As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

Please Be Seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God
Christian Worship #610

We thank those assisting in our Thanksgiving Worship:

Service Pastor Ron Koehler
Accompanist.....Tina Christianson
Worship Choir Director..... Teri Guenther
Brass Ensemble Director Missy Wiechmann
Trumpets..... Pastor Ron Koehler, Pastor Nathan Kassulke
BaritoneEileen Rayman
Trombone..... John Rayman
Timpani..... Danny Koehler
Ushers Mark Christianson, Ed Ethington, Ferdie Kramm, Jonathan Miller
Sound and Recording Technician.....Jeremy Snavelly

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The readings for this Thanksgiving Service come from The Thomasius Selections. Gottfried Thomasius served in the parish ministry for seventeen years, first as a village pastor and then as a popular preacher in Nuremburg, Germany. During his years in Nuremburg, he also distinguished himself as an instructor in the local Gymnasium (secondary education system). In 1842, he became professor of dogmatics (doctrine) in the University of Erlangen, where he continued for 33 years. During 30 of those years, he was also the university preacher. In 1865, the General Synod of Bavaria recommended his selections for use in the churches of Bavaria, and from there they became more widely circulated. (Source: Sermon Texts, E.H. Wendland, Editor)

Washington, D.C.

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they 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 next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State