



Thanks
GIVING

WE ARE GRATEFUL



Zion Lutheran Church
Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
November 25, 2020

WELCOME

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home:
All is 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.

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 presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

INVOCATION

PASTOR: We make our beginning in the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP LITANY

PASTOR: The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,

ALL: Thank You!

PASTOR: The hills and valleys are filled with color, and we say,

ALL: Thank You!

PASTOR: The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,

All: Thank You!

PASTOR: Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,

All: Thank You!

PASTOR: Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say,

All: Thank You!

PRAYER

PASTOR: God our creator, Your gifts to us are countless and Your goodness without limit. As we come in thanksgiving, teach us to use wisely the riches of land and sea and all the blessings which come from You. Grant us hearts that know the needs of others that we may give as freely as we have received from You.

ALL: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

ALL: As we celebrate this day, we offer to You, our Eternal God and Father, our thanksgiving, and praise. We confess our sins, including our ingratitude and lack of appreciation for all the blessings You have given us. We confess to You, that we have not given You thanks for all Your generous blessing, but too often we have grumbled and complained. For these sins and all our other sinful thoughts, words, and actions, we appeal to Your mercy and ask You to forgive us for Jesus' sake.

PASTOR: Our gracious Heavenly Father has forgiven all our sins through the suffering and death of His one and only Son, Jesus; and with His resurrection from the dead has given us the hope of everlasting life. God in His Word has declared, "the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin." He also assures us: "You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." Therefore, I as a called and ordained servant of God, announce unto you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Deuteronomy 8:7-18*

Moses said to all Israel: "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in 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 where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

EPISTLE LESSON: *2 Corinthians 9:6-15*

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 17:11-19*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, 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 made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

For the Fruits of His Creation

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 safe keeping, thanks be to God!

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 world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,

In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of His 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.

SERMON

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PASTOR: Father in heaven, we give You thanks. You gave us life and formed our bodies in the womb. You have preserved us over the years by providing for all our needs. You control the weather, ensuring ample supplies of food. You give us family and friends. You keep our society stable through the various branches of government. You protect and defend us day after day.

ALL: Father in heaven, we thank You.

PASTOR: Jesus, we give You thanks. True God from eternity, You put aside Your heavenly glory to become human like us. You lived the kind of life we should, following perfectly all the commandments. You died the kind of death we should, receiving the total and just punishment for our sin. What love You have shown us! We thank You for reconciling us to Your Father through Your holy, precious blood. We praise You for rising from the dead. We exalt You for winning for us the gift of eternal life. Each of us offers private thanks for Your saving works.

ALL: Lord Jesus, we thank You.

PASTOR: Holy Spirit, counselor, and guide, You have raised us from death by Your powerful Word. You, O Spirit of God, have made us. Your breath has given us life.

ALL: Holy Spirit, we thank You.

PASTOR: Lord, fill our hearts with thanksgiving for Your mercy and love.

ALL: Move our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by 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.

CLOSING PRAYER

PASTOR: God of all creation, thank You for the wonderful things You have made; thank You for the universe full of stars and planets; thank You for our world, full of life; thank You for making each one of us; thank You for loving each one of us. We offer You ourselves and all the gifts You have blessed us with. Take us and use us to share Your love with the world.

ALL: 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.

All: Amen.

Give Thanks

**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 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.
Give thanks. Give thanks.**

*"Give Thanks" by H. Smith
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