

Community Thanksgiving Virtual Worship November 2020

ELW Service of the Word

Introduction to the day

At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: “You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.” We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God’s creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Come and join with Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Heath United Methodist Church, and St. Leonard’s Catholic Church as we offer our thanks to God!

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: We Gather Together (arr. John Ness Beck) Ensemble

GATHERING SONG: For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP FOR THANKSGIVING

L Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C God's steadfast love endures forever.

L Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

C Make known God's deeds among the peoples!

L God blesses us with gifts of love:

C With food and clothing, home and family.

L God blesses us with daily work:

C And all we need from day to day.

L God protects us in time of danger:

C And guards us from every evil.

L Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray together...

C Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

L A reading from Deuteronomy.

Times of abundance tempt us to forget God and rely on our own power and resources. But God is the one who took Israel out of Egypt, led and fed them in the wilderness, brought them into the land, and gave them power to be productive. To thank this God is to remember and proclaim God's deeds.

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, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a 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. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹Take 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. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who 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, ¹⁶and 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. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." ¹⁸But 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 65

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

**⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

Christian fellowship involves sharing with those in need. Here Paul is gathering a collection for the church in Jerusalem from all the Gentile churches he helped found. We can be extravagant in our giving because God is extravagant in providing for our lives.

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And 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. ⁹As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He 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. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through 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, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

L The holy gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "THANKSGIVING AS PRAISE!"

HYMN OF THE DAY: Praise and Thanksgiving

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 God, bless 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 Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt. Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.
Used by permission 2020 onelicense.net A-712659

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

L Let us pray. Merciful God,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

L Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all the ministries of your church. We give thanks for the work you have accomplished through your people, and we pray for your continued blessings in our ministry together, especially the Licking County Coalition of Care.

L Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L Bountiful God, you feed us through the richness of the land, water, sunlight, and ample crops. Bless all those who cultivate the land to bring forth its bounty, especially farmers and migrant workers.

L Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L Merciful God, you order our lives by your providence. We give you thanks for laws, infrastructure, and leadership that structure and support our human endeavors. Align our purposes with your own, that all our undertakings might bring you glory.

L Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L Loving God, you open our hearts in compassion for one another. We give you thanks for the care and healing received through the hands and feet of your servants. Send us to love those most in need of your mercy (*especially*).

L Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L Hospitable God, you connect and strengthen us through meals and conversation with family and friends. In this time of thanksgiving, steer us from passive receiving to active response, from old quarrels to reconciliation, and from overconsumption to true gratitude.

L Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L Eternal God, we give thanks for the love and care we have received from saints who have gone before us. By their example, enrich the generosity of our witness to others.

L Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C 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.**

BLESSING

L The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

L The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: Let All Things Now Living

- 1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

- 2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt. Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company
Used by permission 2020 onelicense.net A-712659

DISMISSAL

L Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number: SAS005987
Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.