THANKSGIVING DAY November 26, 2020



our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er

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be praise!

- **L** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- _

Matthew 28:19

P O Lord, open my lips,

To

C and my mouth shall declare Your praise.

You,

Psalm 51:15

Psalm 95:1-7

Amen

C

- L Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
- let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
- let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- **L** For the Lord is a great God,
- **C** and a great King above all gods.
- **L** In his hand are the depths of the earth;
- **C** the heights of the mountains are his also.

- The sea is his, for he made it,and his hands formed the dry land.
- L Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
- C let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
- **L** For he is our God,
- and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

- **L** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- **L** Let us Pray.
- Lord God, heavenly Father, through whose kindness we have again received the fruits of the earth in their season, grant us ever to rejoice in Your mercy that neither prosperity nor adversity may drive us from Your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with You the Holy Spirit, for whose blessed peace we give thanks

> God of our fathers, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies: Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

> Your love divine has led us in the past; In this free land by you our lot is cast; Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay; Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence Make your strong arm our ever sure defense. Your true religion in our hearts increase; Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people on their toilsome way; Lead us from night to never ending day; Fill all our lives with heaven born love and grace Until at last we meet before your face.

Note: God of Our Fathers was written in 1876 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence.

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

^{1,7}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.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Philippians 4:6-20

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.

The Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. The And 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. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. If 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. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Luke 17:11-19

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17th chapter.
- **C** Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, 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 cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then 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?" ¹⁹And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come Lutheran Service Book 892, Lutheran Worship 495, The Lutheran Hymnal 574



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Devotional thoughts:

The lessons appointed for today are filled with appropriate thoughts for Thanksgiving. For now, I would like to ponder a connection between the Ten Lepers and the Plymouth Colony Pilgrims.

As with everything else in modern America, Thanksgiving and its history has been used to make some political point or change our culture. Let us avoid that and just think about the reality of Thanksgiving.

Both the Ten Lepers and the Pilgrims were beset by devastating afflictions. The Ten Lepers faced lifeending disease and social rejection. The Pilgrims were confronted with one disaster after another. Starvation was staring them in the face. God solved both their problems. Jesus healed the Ten Lepers and restored them to society. God granted a bountiful harvest to the Pilgrims.

The ultimate solution to their needs was God. True in the case of the Pilgrims, one could point to the help they received from the Native Americans, their own hard work, and cooperation among the colonists. Nevertheless, the Pilgrims recognized what the Lepers could not deny. Their ultimate salvation came from God.

From them, we learn that true Thanksgiving only comes when we recognize the source of our blessings. Some, like the nine lepers, are quick to forget where blessings arise. Only the Samaritan leper returned to give thanks.

On this Thanksgiving, along with feasting and festivities, let us pause for a moment and kneel before the real source of all our blessings and give thanks. 2020 may have been a difficult year for you, just as the Pilgrims faced their difficulties. Even so, let us count our blessings: Blessings of family and friends, Blessings of abundance and warmth, Blessings of medical staff and caregivers, Blessings of vaccines and treatments both promised and realized. But above all, let us give thanks for being part of the family of God where sins are forgiven for Christ's sake and eternity in heaven is the final harvest home.

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

What does this mean?

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.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

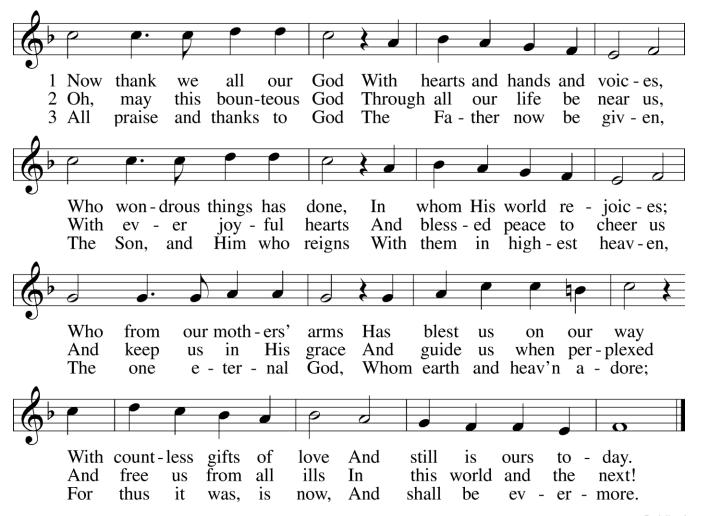
He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

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.

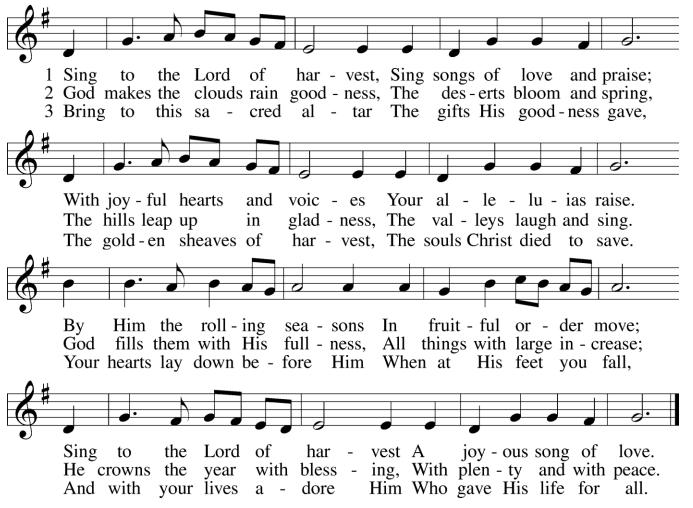
This is most certainly true.

Now Thank We All Our God Lutheran Service Book 895, Lutheran Worship 443, The Lutheran Hymnal 36



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- I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.
- 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.
- **L** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.
- **L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C Amen.



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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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