



Give Thanks To God

Thanksgiving Day

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Seward, Nebraska

November 23, 2023

THEME OF THE DAY: GIVE THANKS TO GOD

On Thanksgiving Day people love to talk about being thankful for the wealth and possessions they have. Yet people are often thankful with the mindset, "I'm thankful for everything that I have done, and for all of the things I have earned through the work of my hands." Our readings this morning remind us that every good and perfect gift has been given to us by our heavenly Father. Since God is the one who blesses us with everything we need for body and soul, let's give thanks to the God who has blessed us so richly.

Worship Leader
Organist/Pianist

Pastor Justin Wilkens
Karma Ridpath

Acknowledgments

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The Service, Morning Prayer (page 207 in Christian Worship 21)

Hymn: 919 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

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Stand

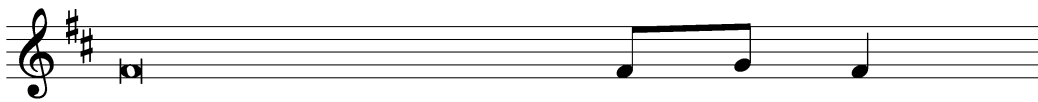
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Hasten to save me, O God;
O Lord, come quickly to help me.

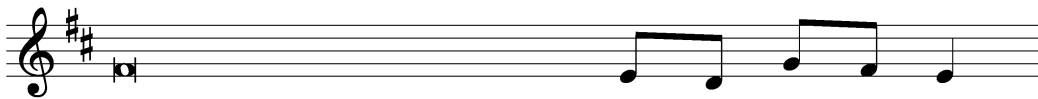
Jesus Christ is Lord of all:
praise and thanks to God!

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

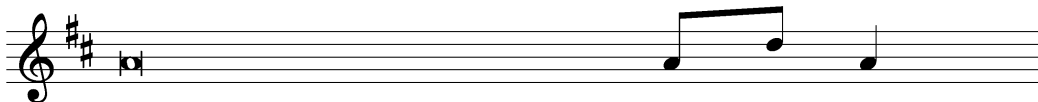
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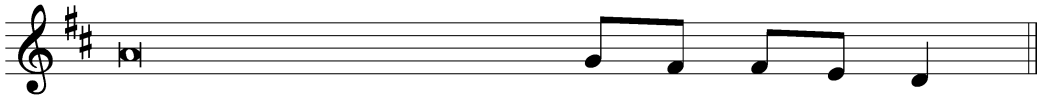
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great God
- 3 The sea is his, for he made it,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and his hand formed the dry land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
- 4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his _____ hand.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your mercies are new every morning, and you graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience all our days; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:18–22

David's Prayer

¹⁸ Then King David went and sat before the Lord and said:

Who am I, Lord God? And what is my house that you have brought me to this point? ¹⁹ Yet this was a small thing in your eyes, Lord God. You have also spoken about the house of your servant for a long time into the future. Is this the law for the man, Lord God?

²⁰ What more can David say to you? You know your servant, Lord God. ²¹ Because of your word and according to the plan of your heart, you have carried out this great thing in order to make your servant aware of it. ²² Therefore, you are great, Lord God, because there is none like you. There is no God except you, in keeping with everything we have heard with our ears.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 100B All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
2 Know that the LORD is God in - deed; with - out our
3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
4 For why? The LORD our God is good; his mer - cy



LORD with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise
aid he did us make. We are his folk; he doth
joy his courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless his name
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm -



forth - tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice!
us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
ly stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

Text: William Kethe, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4–9

Final Exhortations

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if anything is excellent, and if anything is praiseworthy, think about these things. ⁹ The things that you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: Keep doing these things. And the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

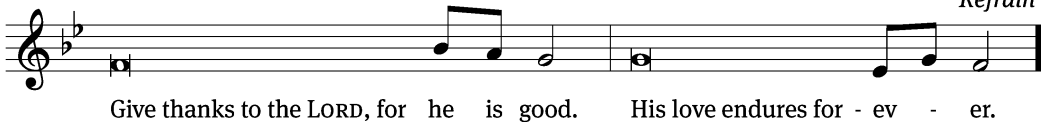
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Refrain



Tone



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

Gospel

Luke 7:36–50

Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

³⁶ A certain one of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him. Jesus entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ Just then a sinful woman from that town learned that he was reclining in the Pharisee's house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸ stood behind him near his feet weeping, and began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she began to wipe them with her hair while also kissing his feet and anointing them with the perfume. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would realize who is touching him and what kind of woman she is, because she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

He said, "Teacher, say it."

⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors. The one owed five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he forgave them both. So, which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one who had the larger debt forgiven."

Then he told him, "You have judged correctly." ⁴⁴ Turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, but you did not give me water for my feet. Yet she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but she, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that is why she loved so much. But the one who is forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."

⁴⁹ Those reclining at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰ He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Seated

Hymn of the Day: 597 Now Thank We All Our God

Devotion: 2 Samuel 7:18-22

Stand

Confession of Faith: First Article and Luther's Explanation

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

Seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.

Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.

Thank you for the healing you bring when we are sick, the protection you send when we are in danger, and the comfort you offer when we are sad. [Hear our prayers for... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Lead us to be thankful as we believe that in all things you work for the good of those who love you.

Thank you for those who help and encourage us in difficult times.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

Offering

Offering Hymn: 617 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Hymn: 612 How Great Thou Art

Give thanks to the Lord!

This thanksgiving we can think of so many reasons to give thanks to God. One of those things that we can be thankful for is how God has been blessing the WELS 100 in 10 initiative which is currently on track to accomplish its goal.

Here is an update on various locations where New Missions have been approved, where God's Word will be proclaimed to advance his Kingdom:

Buffalo, Wyoming

Bentonville, Arkansas

Boston, Massachusetts

Cincinnati, Ohio

Idaho Falls, Idaho

Kalispell, Montana

Kronenwetter, Wisconsin

Marquette, Michigan

North Collin County, Texas

Panama City Beach, Florida

