

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor

NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING (OBSERVED)

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.



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“The First Thanksgiving”
By Jean Leon Gerome Ferris
1863-1930

In the introductory remarks to his explanation of Psalm 122, Martin Luther tells us where thankfulness should come from:

“To begin with, we must rejoice at the less important good things (exiguus bonis) which we enjoy according to the Second Table of the Law in that our bodies and possessions are protected. For these gifts are of minor importance when compared with those which we enjoy according to the First Table: that God has revealed Himself, has made known what He intends to do with us, gives His Word, grants faith and the Holy Spirit, hears prayers, daily increases His church, etc. These things are so great that no tongue is able to amplify and praise them as they deserve...to this David turns his eyes; on this he meditates, and so he is moved to gratitude... For only those are truly thankful who receive the gifts of God joyfully and rejoice in the Giver.”

[What Luther Says, 4354]

"Omnipotent, eternal God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I give You thanks. I praise You. I glorify You because Your hands fashioned me and made every detail of what I am. You shaped me like clay in my mother's womb. You poured me out like milk and curdled me like cheese. You clothed me with skin and knit me together with bones and tendons. You gave me life and showed me mercy. In Your providence, You watched over my spirit." Amen. (Thanksgiving for life and birth, by Johann Gerhard)

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Reading

Adapted from the National Fast Day on April 30, 1863, and the Thanksgiving Proclamation issued by President Lincoln, 1863

- P "It is the duty of nations as well as of people to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God;"
- C "to confess their sin and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon;"**
- P "and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history,"
- C "that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord!"**
- P "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven;"
- C "we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown."**
- P "But we have forgotten God."
- C "We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us,"**
- P "and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts,"
- C "that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."**
- P "Intoxicated with unbroken success,"
- C "we have become too self sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!"**
- P "It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged,"
- C "as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people."**
- P "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,"
- C "to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwells in the heavens."**

Prelude

Come, Ye, Thankful People, Come

Hymn of Invocation

892, Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



Psalm

Psalm 65

P Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,

C and to you shall vows be performed.

P O you who hears prayer,

C to you shall all flesh come.

P When iniquities prevail against me,

C you atone for our transgressions.

P Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

C We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

P By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation,

C the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

P the one who by his strength established the mountains,

C being girded with might;

P who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,

C the tumult of the peoples,

P so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.

C You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

P You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water;

C you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

P You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,

C softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

P You crown the year with your bounty;

C your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

P The pastures of the wilderness overflow,

C the hills gird themselves with joy,

P the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,

C they shout and sing together for joy.

ALL 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

Thanksgiving Day Collect

P Let us pray. Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather in the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, may we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 8:1–10

¹The 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

806, Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Epistle

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.

¹⁴Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

STAND

Holy Gospel

Luke 17:11–19

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? ¹⁸Was 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.

SIT

Catechetical Response

First Article of the Apostles' Creed with Explanation

P I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. What does this mean?

C 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.

The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer with Explanation

P Give us this day our daily bread. What does this mean?

C God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

P What is meant by daily bread?

C Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Hymn

686, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Sermon

"Why Is It Important To Give Thanks?" (Phil. 4:6)

Hymn Response

955, Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord

Thanksgiving Offering

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come – Charles Callahan



To give to Elm Grove Lutheran Church, you can scan the QR code (left) to go to our online giving site.

THANKSGIVING OFFERINGS collected at the Thanksgiving Eve service are designated to support a Place of Refuge. This mission is helping women choose life for their babies and is guiding them toward a life in Christ. Please be generous in your support of this wonderful mission outreach.

Hymnic Litany for Thanksgiving

**807, When Morning Gilds the Skies
785, We Praise You, O God**

- P** People loved by God, let us give to Him all thanks and praise this day.
For the good gifts of this country, our community, our neighbors and all things that fill life with joy and meaning. For farmers, ranchers, harvesters, truckers, fishermen, and grocers. For food and drink, for house and home, for family and friends, for the foretaste of the heavenly feast You grant us even in our earthly gatherings. For the opportunity to share Your good gifts with those less fortunate, for every act of kindness and compassion, for every listening ear and caring heart, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **When morning gilds the skies,
My heart, awaking, cries,
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"
When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!" (LSB 807, St 1)**
- P** For the freedom and liberties we enjoy here in these United States of America, especially the freedom to believe, teach, and confess the truth about Jesus Christ, our Lord, not only within the walls of the Church but also in our daily lives and work, and for that Godly heritage given to us through our nation's founding fathers down to the present day, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's holy house of prayer
Hath none that can compare
With "Jesus Christ be praised!" (LSB 807, St 2)**

P For those who labor to hold chaos and evil at bay: those elected and entrusted with civil authority, our military, our clandestine services, our first responders, our health-care workers, and social workers. For those who tenderly care for the weak and vulnerable among us, especially the unborn, and those who work in nursing homes and child-care centers, and all who keep watch that others may sleep in peace. For carpenters, mechanics, plumbers, electricians, construction workers, and all who build our homes and sustain our lives, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **No lovelier antiphon
In all high heav'n is known
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the_ eternal Word
The_ eternal psalm is heard:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!" (LSB 807, st 3)**

P For those who teach and those who learn in the schools and universities of the church and of the nation, and for all who seek to impart the light of knowledge and the hope of improvement, that they would be guided by the spirit of truthful education. For the gift of the Word of God, for those who proclaim it faithfully among us and around the world, and for those who gather to hear it, ponder it, and grow in it. For those persecuted on account of Christ and His Gospel that God would grant them courage and turn the hearts of their persecutors to repentance and faith. For the strength to fight the good fight, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Ye nations of mankind,
In this your concord find:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!" (LSB 807, st 4)**

P For the grace of Baptism and the gift of a fresh start to each day in His forgiving love. For the promise of everlasting life in Christ, for those we knew and love who have fallen asleep faithfully in Him, for the new heavens and the new earth, and for the city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And for ourselves, that in these gray and later days, there may continue to be those whose lives are praise, each life a high doxology to the Trinity, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C Sing, suns and stars of space,
Sing, ye that see His face,
Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
Both now and evermore
Shall Jesus Christ be praised! (LSB 807, st 5)**

P For the glory of Your holiness, the comfort of Your love, the joy of sins forgiven and the peace of death defeated. For the blessing of love and nurture from the hands of our mothers and fathers. For all these blessings and so many more that we can never number or name, which we have not earned or merited, for all people and for all things God works together for the benefit of His chosen people, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C 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. (LSB 807, st 1)**

P For the gifts God has given all of His people for use in building up the body of Christ, that we would appreciate one another, fan into flame our gifts and talents, and seize the opportunities God provides to speak of His steadfast love. For those whose quiet lives of perseverance inspire us to be and remain faithful, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win. (LSB 807, st 2)**

P For the great joy of participating with angels and archangels, and the whole heavenly host, in the majesty of worshiping before the throne of grace, knowing that we were loved in Christ before the creation of the world. For the good we were permitted to give and to receive this year, especially the supreme good of knowing Christ by faith, let us give thanks to the Lord, commending ourselves, body and soul and all things, into His nail-pierced hands. Amen.

**C With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise! (LSB 807, st 2)**

STAND

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

895, Now Thank We All Our God

"Now Thank We All Our God" [Nun Danket Alle Gott] was composed by Martin Rinckart in 1637 originally as a table prayer for his family. Rinckart spent most of his pastoral ministry in the Saxon town of Eilenburg, Germany, which was also his hometown. His ministry overlapped the 30 Years War [1618-1648] during which there was much suffering caused by war, disease, famine, and refugees. It's only by holding onto the promises of God in Christ that anyone could compose a hymn of joyful thanksgiving in times of enormous heartache.

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God – Michael Burkhardt

ALTAR PARAMENTS: Alternate White.

Participants

Preacher
Organist
Elder
Chancel Assistant
Usher Team on duty

Pastor Eric Skovgaard
Richard C. Ewert
Bruce Bessert
John Schaefer
Aaron DeWitt, Pam Ganswindt, Andrea Kysely,
Steve Nelson, Shelly Skovgaard, Cathy Tuttrup, Matt Zientek, Mikayla Zientek

PROCLAMATION 5098 - THANKSGIVING DAY, 1983 September 15, 1983 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, A PROCLAMATION

Since the Pilgrims observed the initial Thanksgiving holiday in 1621, this occasion has served as a singular expression of the transcending spiritual values that played an instrumental part in the founding of our country. One hundred and twenty years ago, in the midst of a great and terrible civil conflict, President Lincoln formally proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving to remind those "insensible to the ever watchful providence of almighty God" of this Nation's bounty and greatness. Several days after the dedication of the Gettysburg battlefield, the United States celebrated its first national Thanksgiving.

Every year since then, our Nation has faithfully continued this tradition. The time has come once again to proclaim a day of thanksgiving, an occasion for Americans to express gratitude to their God and their country. In his remarks at Gettysburg, President Lincoln referred to ours as a Nation "under God." We rejoice in the fact that, while we have maintained separate institutions of church and state over our 200 years of freedom, we have at the same time preserved reverence for spiritual beliefs. Although we are a pluralistic society, the giving of thanks can be a true bond of unity among our people. We can unite in gratitude for our individual freedoms and individual faiths. We can be united in gratitude for our Nation's peace and prosperity when so many in this world have neither. As was written in the first Thanksgiving Proclamation 120 years ago, "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." God has blessed America and her people, and it is appropriate we recognize this bounty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, in the spirit of the Pilgrims, President Lincoln, and all succeeding Presidents, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 24, 1983, as a National Day of Thanksgiving, and I call upon Americans to affirm this day of thanks by their prayers and their gratitude for the many blessings upon this land and its people. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of Sept., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN.

This "Mayflower Pilgrims" interview on Issues Etc is something we've encouraged for years. If you've never listened to it, consider doing it this year on your commute to work or with family before watching the big game on Thanksgiving Day, as a family and answering the following questions as a way to enrich your family's Thanksgiving celebration. Copy the following link into your browser and enjoy! *[If you're a youth or young adult, there is a reward for successful completion by Sunday, Dec 1!]*

<http://issuesetc.org/podcast/21891124162.mp3>

#1 What initially caused the Pilgrims to leave England?

#2 Roughly how many Mayflower Pilgrim descendants are there in the world today?

#3 Who were the Puritans? How were they different from the Separatists? How did they get the "Puritan?"

#4 Did the interviewee have any relatives on the Mayflower who were saved from drowning during the crossing of the Atlantic? What was his name?

#5 Which Luther commentary (on a book of the Bible) did Plymouth colony Governor Bradford have in his library?

#6 Did the Pilgrims celebrate Christmas in those early colony years? Which national holiday that we still celebrate nowadays did they celebrate? How was this different from the southern colonies, like Virginia?

#7 Was it religious freedom that motivated the Pilgrims' emigration to the US from Holland?

#8 One man in particular fell overboard on the passage to the New World and almost drowned. Being saved he lived, got married, and had many descendants who are famous today. Name two people who are direct descendants of this rescued man.

#9 Identify a couple of ways in which the Plymouth Colony was different from the Jamestown Colony in Virginia?