

# ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor

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## NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING (OBSERVED)

Wednesday, November 26, 2025 – 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 – David M. Cherwien**

**Hymn of Invocation**

**892, Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

STAND

**Psalm**

**Psalm 100**

- P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- C Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**
- P Know that the LORD, he is God!

**C It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

P Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

**C Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

P For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

**C and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**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.**

SIT

### **Old Testament Reading**

### **Deuteronomy 8:1–10**

<sup>1</sup>"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.

<sup>2</sup>And 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. <sup>3</sup>And 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. <sup>4</sup>Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.

<sup>5</sup>Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you.

<sup>6</sup>So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>7</sup>For 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, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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.**

### **Choral Response**

### **We Plow the Fields and Scatter – Johann A. P. Schulz**

### **Epistle**

### **Philippians 4:6–20**

<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses

all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, 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. <sup>9</sup>What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. <sup>10</sup>I 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. <sup>11</sup>Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup>I 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. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

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

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup>and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” <sup>14</sup>When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup>and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>18</sup>Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>And 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 What is the First Article?

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

P 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 What is the Fourth Petition?

**C Give us this day our daily bread.**

P 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

**791 All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

*Stanza 3 - Choir*

Sermon

**"Each Life a High Doxology" (Psalm 100)**

Hymn Response

**894 For the Fruits of His Creation**

Thanksgiving Offering

**For the Fruits of His Creation – Barbara B. Kinyon**



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 this Thanksgiving Eve service are designated to support the work of the Lutheran Church in Germany as it proclaims the Gospel to Iranian and Afghan refugees throughout Germany. This is done in joyful thanksgiving for the outpouring of God's grace in that acre of His vineyard.

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 granted us even in our earthly gatherings. For the opportunity to share God's 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 God's holiness, the comfort of His 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 the 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 785, 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 785, 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 785, st 3)**

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

THE NATION

### God of Our Fathers

501

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand  
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;  
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence  
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;

Leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
In this free land by you our lot is cast;  
Make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.  
Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

Of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies;  
Oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;  
Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;  
Fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace

Our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.  
Your Word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.  
Your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
Un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

## Postlude

**Now Thank We All Our God – Sigfrid Karg-Elert**

ALTAR PARAMENTS: Alternate White.

### Participants

Preacher  
Organist  
Handbells  
Choir  
Guitar  
Elder  
Chancel Assistant  
Usher Team on duty

Pastor Joshua Teggatz  
Richard C. Ewert  
Exultate Ringers  
Exultate Singers  
Pam Ganswindt  
Doug Grelk  
Kirk Midtbo

Anthony Bagwell, Pam Ganswindt, Andrea Kysely,  
Steve Nelson, Shelly Skovgaard, Cathy Tuttrup, Matt Zientek, Mikayla Zientek



BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
A PROCLAMATION

In 1789, just years after America's triumph over tyranny in the Revolutionary War, President George Washington established the first National Day of Thanksgiving, declaring "the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor." Decades later, in the midst of the bloody Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln implored the Nation to join in unity for "a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." In every generation since, this spirit of reverence, trust, and gratitude has preserved our way of life and made America the strongest, greatest, and most resilient Nation the world has ever known.

From the pilgrims who settled our continent and the patriots who won our independence on the battlefield to the pioneers who tamed the west and the warriors who have preserved our freedom in distant lands, the spirit of gratitude and grit embodied by those who celebrated the first Thanksgiving more than 400 years ago have stood at the very heart of what it means to be an American.

This year, God has bestowed abundant blessings all across our land and indeed the entire world. As we give thanks to Him, we continue to advance our Nation through strong leadership and commonsense policy. As a result, the American economy is roaring back, we are making progress on lowering the cost of living, a new era of peace is sweeping around the world, our sovereignty is being swiftly restored, and the American spirit is coming back greater and more powerful than ever before.

As we prepare to celebrate 250 glorious years of American independence, this Thanksgiving, we summon the faith, resolve, and unflinching fortitude of the giants of American history who came before us. We vow to build a future that echoes their sacrifice. Above all, we offer our endless gratitude to Almighty God for His love, grace, and infinite blessings.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 27, 2025, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all Americans to gather, in homes and places of worship, to offer a prayer of thanks to God for our many blessings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fiftieth.

DONALD J. TRUMP