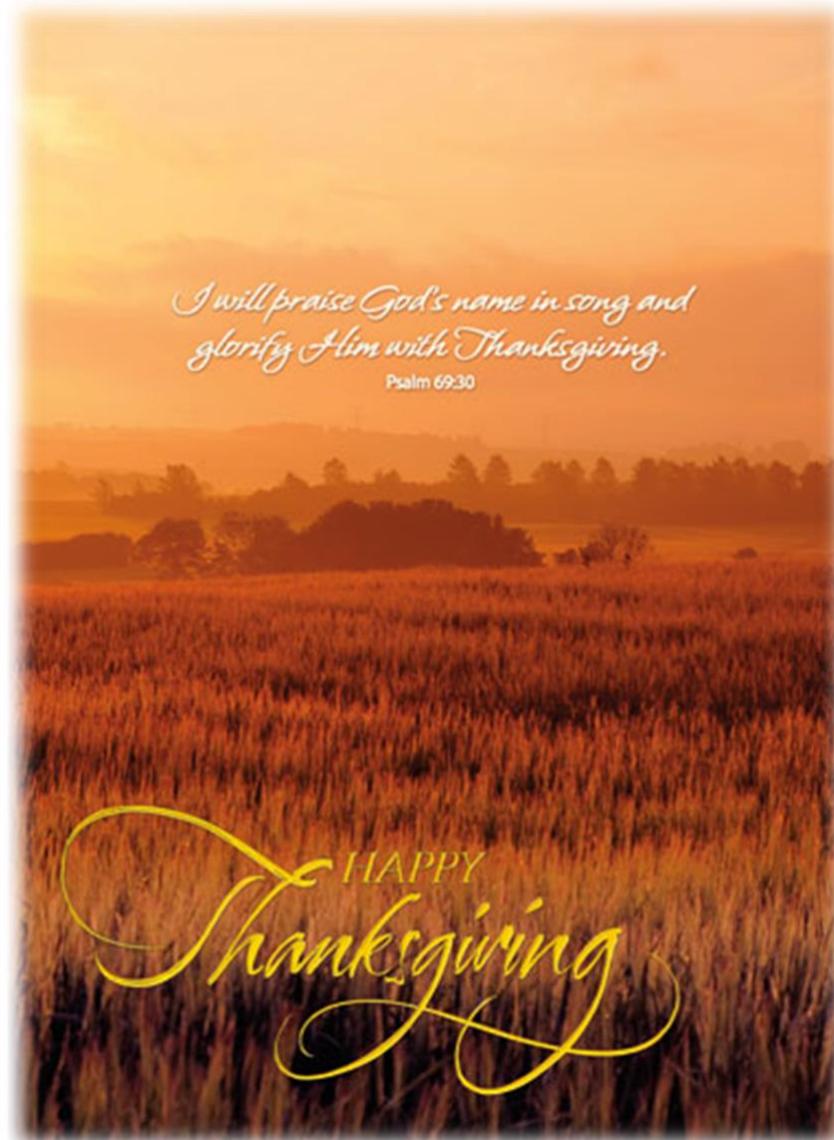


THANKSGIVING DAY

November 25, 2021



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH MINNEAPOLIS
1720 E. Minnehaha Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-722-1083

OPENING HYMN, LSB 892, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;
3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har - vest home,
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.
From His field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,
Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
Give His an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy gar - ner to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
But the fruit - ful ears to store In His gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

P: As Christian citizens of this country, we come to praise the God Who is the Source of all that we are and have. We come with joy in our hearts, even when that joy might be tempered by actions which bring pain and sorrow.

Into our Lord's presence we come, as undeserving as we are, to thank Him, as we are encouraged by St. Paul to do: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)*

C: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING, Matthew 6:25-33 (NIV)

[Jesus said,]"I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is

how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

IT'S TIME TO PRAY

During this prayer, Pastor Don will introduce various portions. After he does so, we will have a quiet time for everyone to pray their personal prayers.

P: This past week has brought some wonderful events into my life. Lord, I thank You for ... *quiet time for personal prayer* ...

P: Lord, I also have some difficulties. Please help me deal with these issues ... *quiet time for personal prayer* ...

P: Lord, do You remember that time when I prayed for something, and You answered it in a totally different way? I thank You for that, which I remember now in this prayer ... *quiet time for personal prayer* ...

P: I pray, O God...there are some people whom I ask that You heal ... *quiet time for personal prayer* ...

P: And I thank You for recently healing ... *quiet time for personal prayer* ...

P: Something I want to tell You thanks for, Lord, that's really huge is ... *quiet time for personal prayer* ...

P: And for this little something that's so little I've forgotten to thank You... *quiet time for personal prayer* ...

WE PRAY, CONFESSING

P: As we have been given, let us confess to the Great Giver of all good things.

**C: We confess You, O God . . .
The Source of all that is
And the End of all that ever will be.**

**In You is love . . .
That love is shown through what You give
And it is shown through what You do not give.**

**We have been given love . . .
. . . instead of hatred.
We have been given a Savior . . .
. . . instead of a judge.
We have been given food . . .
. . . instead of famine.**

**We have been given work and school . . .
. . . instead of poverty and ignorance.
We have been given Your grace . . .
. . . instead of a demand to measure up.
We have been given toys that bring joy . . .
. . . instead of bombs that blow apart.**

P: Lord, You have given us so much, yet look at what we have done:

C: We have too often chosen to be agents of hatred and judgment, causing famine and poverty for many, and allowing ignorance to be a too – common way of life. The demand to measure up is not Your voice speaking to us, Lord, but it is ours as we seek to impose our own standards on others. And the bombs, Lord – the bombs of war, of anger, of jealousy, lust, and pain. We are the agents responsible for such things, Lord, and we confess them to You today.

P: Yes, sisters and brothers ... this is who we are, you and I. We have received so much, and too often have turned around and used our gifts as tools of anger and revenge and selfishness. The Lord loves us, though, and is forever with us...loving us, gifting us, forgiving us, and taking us to the next level of our walk with Him. As a loving Father, He hears us, and as our Savior, He forgives us.

**C: For Who You are, O Lord, and all we have from You ...
Thank You, Good Lord! Amen**

HYMN FOR THE DAY, LSB 894, "For The Fruits Of His Creation"



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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A MESSAGE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY



CREEDAL HYMN

(Tune: "Kremser" – LSB #785)

Surrounded by blessing, our true faith confessing,
We children of God our dear Father acclaim:
Creator, Defender, Provider, strong and tender.
We live, crowned by His love – we exalt in His name.

In Christ born of Mary, our burdens to carry,
Our faith we confess and our praises we sing.
Death's dark reign He ended – arisen, ascended:
He lives and reigns on high, our Redeemer and King.

Elected, invited, called, gathered, united
By God's Holy Spirit – the Church lives in love:
Forgiven, forgiving...and filled with thanksgiving,
Till, raised from death, we triumph in heaven above.

LITANY OF THANKS

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, for a hundred things –
For the flower that blooms ... for the bird that sings ...

Women: For the sun that shines ... and the rain that drops ...

Men: For ice cream and raisins and lollipops.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, for the gift of time –
For the clocks that tick ... and the bells that chime ...

Men: For days gone by ... and future cheers ...

Women: For seasons and moments ... for hours and years.

Pastor: Thanks, Lord, for the people who give life pizzazz –
For folks who play sports ... those who act and play
jazz ...

All: For friends and for families ... for folks of all races ...
For hands that give help ... and for bright smiling faces.

Pastor: Thanks, Lord, for the planet You give as our home –
For the sky with its clouds ... for the oceans' white
foam ...

Lectern side: For the creatures and critters ... the lakes, falls,
and fountains ...

Pulpit side: For hills and for valleys ... for canyons and
mountains.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, for the gift of Your Son –
For the love Jesus shared ... for the battle He won ...

Lectern side: Over death – for the promise that He would be
near ...

Pulpit side: To lead and to guide and to hold us so dear.

**ALL: Thank You, Lord, for a hundred things –
For autumn and pumpkins ... for dragonfly wings ...
For Thanksgiving dinners ... For seashores and shore.
For a hundred things, and a thousand things more.**

HYMN OF PRAISE, LSB 895, “Now Thank We All Our God”



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,



Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heav'n,



Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;



With countless gifts of love And still is ours to-day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ever - more.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: We go now and offer ourselves to others in our lives, many of whom we do not know. Remind us, Lord, that even though we might not know them, You do ... because they, just like us, are Your children. As we have come to give thanks to You in this service of worship, may we go and worship You in service to others, as our on-going way of giving thanks to You, for all we are and have, from the little things to those so huge we cannot get our arms around them. We pray this, Lord, in Your blessed, holy name, and together we pray the prayer that You taught to Your disciples, as we say:

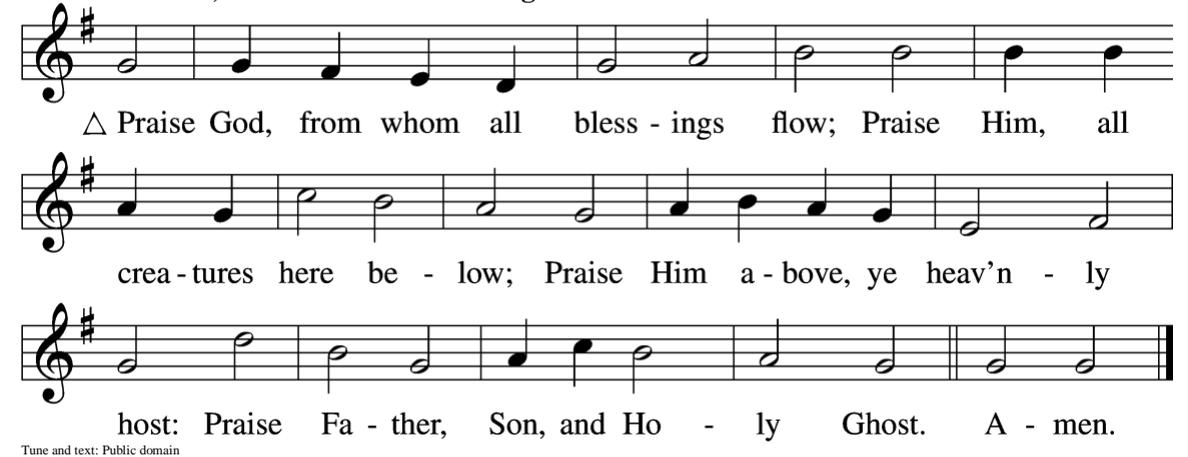
C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**



BENEDICTION HYMN

LSB 805, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Tune and text: Public domain

*I've held many
things in my hands
and I've lost them all.*

*But whatever I've placed
in God's hands -
that I shall possess.*

– Martin Luther