

**“THANKS BE TO GOD,
FOR ALL GOOD GIFTS AROUND US,
ARE SENT FROM HEAVEN ABOVE!”**

A service of Thanksgiving sponsored by the Farmington Ministerial Association
hosted at Lord of Life Lutheran Church

A Service of Thanksgiving Wednesday, November 24, 2021 - 7 p.m.

Prelude & Words of Greeting

Gathering In Thanks & Praise “We Gather Together” *Valerius*

vs. 1 **We gather together, to ask the Lord’s blessing;
He chastens and hastens, His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing, now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; He forgets not his own.**

vs. 3 **We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still, our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation, escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

Litany Giving Thanks for God’s Faithfulness, Blessings, and Grace

Pastor: Tonight we celebrate, we give God all thanks and praise, for all good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above, so we gather together to worship, in the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. I give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart. I give thanks to you alone for your steadfast love and faithfulness.

Pastor: People of God: Jesus knows our transgressions. Our sins are ever before him. On this festive night, let us take a moment of silence to confess our sins and the times we have not given thanks and praise to the Lord’s majestic name. (*silence for reflection*) Friends in Christ, trust the Lord’s majesty in every gift of grace in these words: Jesus saves; Jesus forgives you all your sins. Come, you thankful people, come; give thanks, God has created in us a clean heart, putting in us a new and right spirit.

Song of Praise “Come, You Thankful People, Come” *Alford*

vs. 1 **Come, you thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, does provide, For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.**

All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come into His presence with singing.

Pastor: Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, we are His. Enter His gates with joy and thanksgiving and His courts with praise!

Song of Praise “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” *Beethoven/Van Dyke*

**Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

All: Give thanks to the Lord, make known His deeds. Sing praises; make known every gift and blessing of God’s majesty and grace!

Pastor: Announce and sing: Praise to the Lord the Almighty!

Song of Praise “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” *Bennett*

vs. 1 **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**

All: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart in the congregation.

Pastor: Great and majestic are the works of the Lord; The Lord’s beauty is through all the earth!

Song of Praise “For the Beauty of the Earth” *Pierpoint/Dix*

vs. 1 **For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies;
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise, This our sacrifice of praise.**

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time on, from the rising of the sun to its setting, forevermore!

Pastor: From generation to generation, we will give the Lord all our praise and thanksgiving!

Song of Praise “Praise & Thanksgiving” *Thewes*

vs. 1 **Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer,
For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.**

All: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Pastor: Exalt his name! The Lord blesses you to be a blessing along with all the faithful!
We are one in The Spirit! Blest be the tie that binds!

Song of Praise “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Fawcett

vs. 1 **Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love;
The unity of heart and mind, Is like to that above.**

All: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You set your glory above the heavens. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars and all you have established, who are we that you are mindful of us?

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord for he is good! Now thank we all our God!

Song of Praise “Now Thank We All Our God”

Bach/Cruger

vs. 1 **Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers’ arms, Has blest us on our way,
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Loving God, you bless us daily with your steadfast love. You alone grace us; you alone, rule, create, sustain, call, empower, bless and save. As we gather together, as we see anew the beauty of the earth, as we go into the world, as we call on the wonder, awe, and hope, we have in community, we give you all thanks and praise for all good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above. With thankful hearts, in Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Hearing The Word of God

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

(all read bold print)

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Jesus and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, **“They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”** They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, **“Bring them here to me.”** Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. **Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.** And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. **And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.** (New Revised Standard Version)

Stating Our Faith In God's Blessings & Grace – Hebrews 11-12:2

Pastor: God has blessed God's people with the gift of faith from the beginning of time. Long ago witnesses proclaimed the blessings of Jesus' grace were sufficient to the Hebrew Christians considering returning to Judaism. Let us give thanks and boldly share our faith tonight using these same words.

All: **Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ...Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whomever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ...Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Amen.**

A Thanksgiving Sermon In Song

Giving Thanks for Our Native American Brothers & Sisters

The Rev. Elaine Barber, Advent Episcopal Church

"Dreamcatcher" video

Giving Thanks for Community

Pastor Karen Evenson, Faith Church

"Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"

Robinson & Wyeth

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,

Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy goodness prove.

Giving Thanks for Justice
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff, Farmington Lutheran Church
“Canticle of the Turning”

Cooney, Donohoo, Daigle

vs. 1 **My soul cries out with a joyful shout,
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things,
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

ref: **My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.**

Giving Thanks for Service
Chaplain Scott Evenson, Faith Church
“Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service”

Wienhorst/Prichard

**Lord, whose love in humble service Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Worked your mercy’s perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart:
Consecrating to your purpose Ev’ry gift which you impart.**

Giving Thanks for Church
Pastor Josh Hampsher, Connect Church
“I Love To Tell The Story”

Hankey & Fischer

vs. 1 **I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

ref: **I love to tell the story; I’ll sing this theme in glory,
And tell the old, old story, of Jesus and his love.**

Giving Thanks for Children
Pastor Jamie Thompson, Lord of Life Lutheran Church
“Children of The Heavenly Father”

Sandell Berg

vs. 1 **Children of the heav’nly Father, Safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven, Such a refuge ne’er was given.**

Giving Thanks for Military and Country
The Rev. Elaine Barber, Advent Episcopal Church
“America The Beautiful”

Bates & Ward

vs. 1 **O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.**

Giving Thanks for Agriculture
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff, Farmington Lutheran Church
“All Good Gifts (We Plow the Fields and Scatter)”

Tebelak & Schwartz

vs.1 **We plow the fields and scatter, the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.**

ref: **All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above,
So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.**

Giving Thanks for Comfort
Pastor Karen Evenson, Faith Church
“It Is Well With My Soul”

Spafford & Bliss

vs. 1 **When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”**

ref: **It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.**

Giving Thanks for Every Blessing
“Give Thanks”

Smith

**Give thanks with a thankful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a thankful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now, let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us.”**

**And now, let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us.”**

Give thanks.

Sharing Our Needs and Joys with God in Prayer

Pastor: ...as we pray to you, Jesus,

All: We give you, gracious God, all our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

**All: 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.**

Strengthened to Meet Today, and The Week to Come

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be
gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace; as you
give all thanks and praise to God alone! In the name of The Father, and of The
Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Song of Blessing “May The Good Lord Bless and Keep You”

Willson

**May the good Lord bless and keep you, Whether near or far away.
May you find that long-awaited golden day today.**

**May your troubles all be small ones, And your fortune ten times ten.
May the good Lord bless and keep you, ‘til we meet again.**

**May you walk with sunlight shining, And a bluebird in ev’ry tree.
May there be a silver lining back of ev’ry cloud you see.**

**Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows,
Never mind what might have been.
May the good Lord bless and keep you, ‘Til we meet, ‘til we meet again.**

Pastor: Friends, let us go in the peace of Christ, celebrating and serving the gift of community we share, sent forth by God’s blessing, and giving all thanks and praise to our good and gracious God!

All: Thanks be to God!

Going In Grace & Blessing “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” *Westendorf*

**vs. 1 Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, Oh, now be extended,
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us,
To work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.**

Postlude

Acknowledgments for this evening’s service include: Litany Giving Thanks for God’s Faithfulness, Blessings & Grace “The Lord’s Prayer” & “Benediction” based on the LBW. “Come, You Thankful People, Come” “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” “For the Beauty of the Earth” “Praise & Thanksgiving” “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” “Now Thank We All Our God” “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and With One Voice Hymnal Supplement © 1995 Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis & Board of Publication, Lutheran Church In America, Philadelphia; and Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN. Used with permission. “We Gather Together” The United Methodist Hymnal, Book of United Methodist Worship © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, TN. “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” © Words and Music Public Domain, CCLI #43073 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Words and Music Public Domain “Canticle of the Turning” © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., OL #00762 “Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service” Music Public Domain, Words © 1988 Oxford University Press, CCLI #1517072 “I Love to Tell the Story” Words and Music Public Domain, CCLI #29413 “Children of the Heavenly Father” Words and Music Public Domain, CCLI #98028 “America the Beautiful” © 1956 Fred Bock Music Company CCLI #1881629 “All Good Gifts” © 1971 Quartet Music, Inc. “When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)” Words and Music Public Domain, OL #97579 “Give Thanks,” © 1978, Arr. © 1991, 1992 by Integrity’s Hosanna! Music. CCLI #20285 “May The Good Lord Bless and Keep You” © 1950 Frank Music Corporation. All rights reserved. All songs used with permission. CCLI License #1380826 & OneLicense #A-724016.