

**Zion Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, PA**

**Service of the Word for Thanksgiving – A Resource for Home Devotions**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

L: In joy and thanksgiving we begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

**C: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.** (Psalm 146:2)

L: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God is faithful and just and will hear us and grant us forgiveness.

*(Silence for personal confession)*

L: Eternal Father,

**C: We come before you recognizing that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have failed to follow your commandments and have done what we know is contrary to your holy will. Forgive us, and grant us the joy of your saving presence again. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

L: In the name of God the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad! For the Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**C: Amen.**

**Greeting**

L: May the grace of God our heavenly Father who laid the foundations of the world, the love of the Son who is seated at the right hand of God in majesty, and the peace of the Holy Spirit which surpasses all understanding, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray ...

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new to us every morning, and you abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul, though we have not deserved your goodness. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *(Evangelical Lutheran Liturgy, 1894)*

**C: Amen.**

## **First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. <sup>3</sup>And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ <sup>4</sup>Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. <sup>5</sup>And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. <sup>6</sup>And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. <sup>7</sup>Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup>And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

## **Psalm 100**

<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
<sup>2</sup> **Serve the LORD with gladness!**  
**Come into his presence with singing!**  
<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
<sup>4</sup>**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,**  
**and his courts with praise!**  
**Give thanks to him; bless his name!**  
<sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

## **Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <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.

## Gospel: John 6:25-35

<sup>25</sup>When {the crowd} found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?” <sup>31</sup>Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” <sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup>They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

## A Reading from Martin Rinkhart (1586-1649)

*Published in 1637 in the midst of the Thirty Years' War and an epidemic in which he buried 4,480 victims, among them his wife.*

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom his world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms,  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in his grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all harm  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven;  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore;

For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

*Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878)*

### **Response to the Word**

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

*Ephesians 1:13-14*

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Responsive Prayer of Thanksgiving**

L: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us:  
For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

**C: We thank you, Lord.**

L: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

**C: We thank you, Lord.**

L: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

**C: We thank you, Lord.**

L: For health and strength to work, and time to rest and worship,

**C: We thank you, Lord.**

L: For all who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

*Time to pray for people by name, aloud or in silence*

**C: We thank you, Lord.**

L: For all who earnestly seek after truth, and all who labor for justice,

*Time to pray for people by name, aloud or in silence*

**C: We thank you, Lord.**

L: For all that is good and gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

*Time to pray for people by name, aloud or in silence*

**C: We thank you, Lord.**

L: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

*Time to pray for people by name, aloud or in silence*

**C: We thank you, Lord.**

L: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father,  
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

L: Let us pray with confidence the words our Savior gave us:

**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.**

### **Blessing & Dismissal**

L: In the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, remember brothers and sisters, to show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. Instead, go into the world to share God's love so that all will know his goodness and mercy. (James 2:1)

**C: Amen.**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**A Reading from Martin Rinkhart from For All the Saints: A Prayer Book For and By the Church, Vol. II, pg. 1344**

**Responsive Prayers** *adapted from:*

<https://anglicancompass.com/thanksgiving-prayers/>

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