

Zion Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, PA

Service of the Word for Thanksgiving & A Resource for Home Devotions 11/22/2023

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 mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. 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 8:1-10

“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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ 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, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

Psalm 111

¹Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴**He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸**they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-20

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ 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. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² 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. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

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

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

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

Excerpts from “The Christian’s Special Duty of Giving Thanks”

A Sermon by Thomas Manton

From “Sermon LXX” included in Several Sermons upon Psalm 119 in The Complete Works of Thomas Manton, Vol 7, reprinted by Maranatha Publishers.

Thomas Manton (1620-1677): Non-Conformist Puritan preacher and Oxford graduate who preached until forbidden by the Act of Uniformity of 1662. From 1662 to 1670 he preached in his own house, but was arrested and imprisoned for six months. He later became the preacher

for London merchants in Pinners' Hall. James Ussher called him "one of the best preachers in England." Born in Lawrence- Lydiat, county of Somerset, England.

The necessity of being much and often in thanksgiving will appear by these two considerations: Because God is continually beneficial to us, blessing and delivering His people every day and by new mercies giveth us new matter of praise and thanksgiving: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah" (Psa. 68:19). He hath continually favored us and preserved us and poured His benefits upon us. The mercies of every day make way for songs which may sweeten our rest in the night; and His giving us rest by night and preserving us in our sleep, when we could not help ourselves, giveth us songs in the morning. And all the day long we find new matter of praise: our whole work is divided between receiving and acknowledging.

Some mercies are so general and beneficial that they should never be forgotten but remembered before God every day, such as redemption by Christ: "He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered" (Psa. 111:4). We must daily be blessing God for Jesus Christ: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15), [which] I understand [to be] of His grace by Christ. We should ever be thus blessing and praising Him; for the keeping of His great works in memory is the foundation of all love and service to God. ...

It is amost delightful work to remember the many thousand mercies God hath bestowed on the church, ourselves, and friends. To remember His gracious word and all the passages of His providence; is this burdensome to us? "Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely" (Psa. 147:1); and "Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant" (Psa. 135:3). No profit so great as spiritual; is not to be measured by the good things of this world or a little pelf or the great mammon, which so many worship. But spiritual and divine benefit, which tendeth to make us spiritually better, more like God, more capable of communion with Him, that is true profit. It is an increase of faith, love, and obedience. So for pleasure and delight—that which truly exhilarateth the soul [and] begets upon us a solid impression of God's love—that is the true pleasure.

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!

Additional Resource:

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)

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

<https://www.apuritansmind.com/the-christian-walk/one-special-duty-thankfulness-thomas-manton/>

<https://www.pastortheologians.com/articles/2019/11/27/thomas-manton-on-thanksgiving>

Responsive Prayers adapted from:

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

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