

**Zion Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, PA**

**Service of the Word for Thanksgiving & A Resource for Home Devotions 11/27/2024**

**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. <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.

## Psalm 67

<sup>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
<sup>2</sup>**that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**  
<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!  
<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.**  
<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!  
<sup>6</sup>**The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, shall bless us.**  
<sup>7</sup>God shall bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

## Second Reading: 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.

### **Gospel: Luke 17:11-19**

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem he 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.”

### **A Reading from Henry Alford (1810-1871)**

#### **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

Come, ye thankful people, come;  
Raise the song of harvest-home;  
All is safely gathered in;  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God our Maker doth provide;  
For our wants to be supplied:  
Come, to God's own temple come;  
Raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field;  
Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown;  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade, and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear:  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come;  
And shall take his harvest-home;  
From his field shall in that day  
All offenses purge away;

Give his angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast;  
But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To thy final harvest-home;  
Gather thou thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There for ever purified, In thy presence to abide:  
Come, with all thine angels, come; Raise the glorious harvest-home. Amen.

## **Reflection on Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

**By Peter Johnston**

A beloved hymn for Thanksgiving, “Come, ye thankful people, come” is also a fitting hymn for Advent. It presents a rare combination of thanks and of judgment, drawing singers into reverent awe before the Almighty.

Anglican priest Henry Alford wrote the hymn in 1844 and published it under the heading, “After Harvest.” At the time Alford was Vicar of the rural town of Wymeswold, where the people would celebrate “Harvest Home,” a harvest festival in late September. In America, the hymn is more typically sung in late November, around Thanksgiving. This providential timing locates the hymn close to Advent, so as to bring out its deeper themes. . . .

*Commenting on the final verse:* The prospect of judgment puts the saints of God in a state of awe, amazed both by the holiness of God and by his gracious love for his people. Forever purified by the blood of Christ, we who sing this hymn give thanks, both for the annual harvest, and for the final harvest of Christ’s righteousness in us.

## **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!**

**Hymn Guide: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

By [Peter Johnston](#)

<https://anglicancompass.com/behind-the-hymn-come-ye-thankful-people-come/>

**Responsive Prayers adapted from:**

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

**Order of Worship:** Permission granted for use by active SOWeR subscribers (Sola Publishing).

**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**