
Thanksgiving

November 24, 2021

Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wausau, Wisconsin

THANKSGIVING IS ...

- M:** O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God of heaven and earth, you have graciously and lovingly preserved and sustained us to this day.
- C:** **You have blessed our plans and labors far beyond what we deserve.**
- M:** The sunshine, the rain, the soil, the seed - all are yours; you have blessed our use of them, giving us bountiful harvests from gardens and farms. In all professions you have been present with your guidance and your open hand of blessing.
- C:** **In our individual lives you have encouraged, sustained, and protected us. Lord, we have enjoyed living off the fat of the land. Our granaries are filled to overflowing year after year. Our storehouses bulge with the excesses of harvest. Our tables are covered with good things to eat. We must surely concede that we have not lacked those things that are necessary to our lives.**

M: We thank and praise you for all this evidence of your lovingkindness.

C: **Teach us to dedicate our lives to you, that in all that we think, say, and do we may conform to your holy will. Do not count against us the times when we were poor stewards of your gifts and idle workmen in your kingdom.**

M: For the sake of Christ's blood and righteousness, forgive all our sins, all our shortcomings, and all laziness and slothfulness on our part, that nothing may hinder us from inheriting the best and richest of all your blessings, namely, eternal life in heaven.

C: **Give us always the gift of the Holy Spirit, who alone can lead our hearts aright. So will we come to love the gospel of our salvation, pursue whatever is profitable to our faith, and shun everything that would bring it harm. We also earnestly desire the gift of contentment, that we may learn to use and enjoy what we have and not sin by coveting more.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we offer you our private thanksgiving.

Silent Prayer

M: O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, let not our song of thankfulness for all your kindnesses become a dirge of ingratitude and complaining.

C: **We ask this of you in the name of Jesus, whose nail-pierced hands are ample evidence that he was delivered up for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification. Amen.**

“NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”

Hymn # 610

THANKSGIVING IS REQUIRED

Luke 17:11-18

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

“WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD, OUR REDEEMER”

Hymn # 609

**THANKSGIVING IS REMEMBERING
FROM WHOM OUR BLESSINGS COME**

Deuteronomy 8:6-14, 17-18

Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a

land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

LUTHER'S EXPLANATION OF THE FIRST ARTICLE

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.

For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

THANKSGIVING IS NOT WORRYING

Matthew 6:25-34

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. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own

THANKSGIVING IS RECOGNIZING WHAT IS TRULY VALUABLE

Luke 12:15-21

Then Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

THANKSGIVING IS BEING CONTENT

Philippians 4:11-13

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

"PRAISE TO GOD, IMMORTAL PRAISE"

Hymn # 612

Psalm 118

M: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C: **his love endures forever.**

M: Let Israel say:

C: **"His love endures forever."**

M: Let the house of Aaron say:

C: **"His love endures forever."**

M: Let those who fear the LORD say:

C: **"His love endures forever."**

M: In my anguish I cried to the LORD,

C: **and he answered by setting me free.**

M: The LORD is with me;

C: **I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?**

M: The LORD is with me; he is my helper.

C: **I will look in triumph on my enemies.**

M: It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

C: **It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.**

M: All the nations surrounded me,

C: **but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.**

M: They surrounded me on every side,

C: **but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.**

M: They swarmed around me like bees, but they died out as quickly as burning thorns;

C: **in the name of the LORD I cut them off.**

M: I was pushed back and about to fall,

C: **but the LORD helped me.**

M: The LORD is my strength and my song;

C: **he has become my salvation.**

M: Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

C: **"The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!**

M: The LORD's right hand is lifted high;

C: **the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"**

M: I will not die but live,

C: **and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

M: The LORD has chastened me severely,

C: **but he has not given me over to death.**

M: Open for me the gates of righteousness;

C: **I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.**

M: This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

C: **I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.**

M: The stone the builders rejected

C: **has become the capstone;**

M: the LORD has done this,

C: **and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

M: This is the day the LORD has made;

C: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

M: O LORD, save us;

C: **O LORD, grant us success.**

M: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

C: **From the house of the LORD we bless you.**

M: The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us.

C: **With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.**

M: You are my God, and I will give you thanks;

C: **you are my God, and I will exalt you.**

M: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
C: his love endures forever.

GATHERING OF THE THANK OFFERING

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE BENEDICTION

"GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND"

Hymn # 619



610 Now Thank We All Our God

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

2 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 ills In this world and the next.

3 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 heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

609 We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator!
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring:
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

2 We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you.
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been;
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer;
To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.
Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.

612 Praise to God, Immortal Praise

- 1 Praise to God, immortal praise,
For the love that crowns our days.
Bounteous Source of ev'ry joy,
Let your praise our tongues employ.
All to you, our God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow.
- 2 All the plenty summer pours,
Autumn's rich, o'erflowing stores,
Flocks that whiten all the plain,
Yellow sheaves of ripened grain —
Lord, for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.
- 3 Peace, prosperity, and health,
Private bliss and public wealth,
Knowledge with its gladd'ning streams,
True religion's holier beams—
Lord, for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.
- 4 As your prosp'ring hand has blest,
May we give you of our best
And by deeds of kindly love
For your mercies grateful prove,
Singing thus through all our days: “
Praise to God, immortal praise.”

Text: Anna L. Barbauld, 1743–1825, abr., alt.

619 God Bless Our Native Land

1 God bless our native land!
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night!
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save
By thy great might.

2 For her our prayers shall rise
To God above the skies;
On him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry,
God save the state!

Text: Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, st. 1, alt.; John S. Dwight, 1813–93, st. 2.

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