



November 26, 2025

Thanksgiving Eve

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

♪ Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
All be 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, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide:
Come with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 892—Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt.; Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

For His steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,

For His steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

For His steadfast love endures forever;

To Him who alone does great wonders,

For His steadfast love endures forever.

Psalms 136:1–4

Confession and Absolution

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

Psalms 14:1

All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

No one does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:12

Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed. We deserve Your punishment, both now and for eternity. *A Time of Silence*

I have the best news for you as we celebrate and give thanks to God for all He has done this year. He has given us the greatest thing to be thankful for today—the forgiveness of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Ps. 136:1

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, grant that we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“How Great Thou Art”

♪ O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,

Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed; Refrain

~Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

♪ When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur

And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; ~Then...

♪ But when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—

That on the cross my burden gladly bearing

He bled and died to take away my sin; ~Then...

♪ When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration

And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” ~Then....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 801—Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989

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Psalmody

Psalm 65

Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion, and to You shall vows be performed.

O You who hears prayer, to You shall all flesh come.

When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.

Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple!

By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

The one who by His strength established the mountains, being girded with might; who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,

So that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at Your signs.

You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with Your bounty; Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

¹“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, ²you 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. ³And 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.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. ⁵“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. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then 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. ⁸And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

♪ 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 mothers' 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 ills In this world and the next!

Please Stand

♪ 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 895—Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.;
Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:13–21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’” ¹⁸And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’” ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

- ♪ 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!
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 790—Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Text: Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

“Giving Thanks to God, ALWAYS!”

Luke 12:13–21

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Admonition to Communicants

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Proclamation of Christ

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in

the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Distribution Hymns *Please Be Seated*

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

- ♪ O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.
- ♪ O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!
- ♪ 'Tis He forgives thy sins; 'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.
- ♪ He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.
- ♪ He fills the poor with good; He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th'oppressed.
- ♪ His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace By His belovèd Son.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 814—Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Text: Public domain

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

- ♪ Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain
- ~Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
- ♪ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great...
- ♪ Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 809—Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960; Text: Public domain

Postlude