

Scripture Lessons for a Special Service of Thanksgiving

Old Testament

Lamentations 3:21-25 NIV O LORD, Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: 22 Because of the LORD great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him." 25 The LORD is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him;

Epistle

1 Timothy 2:1-8 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 Who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 Who gave Himself as a Ransom for all men - the testimony given in its proper time. 7 And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle - I am telling the truth, I am not lying - and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. 8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

Gospel

Luke 17:11-19 Now on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As He was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met Him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" 14 When He saw them, He said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. 15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him - and he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then He said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

A Thanksgiving Proclamation

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy

Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the LORD.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

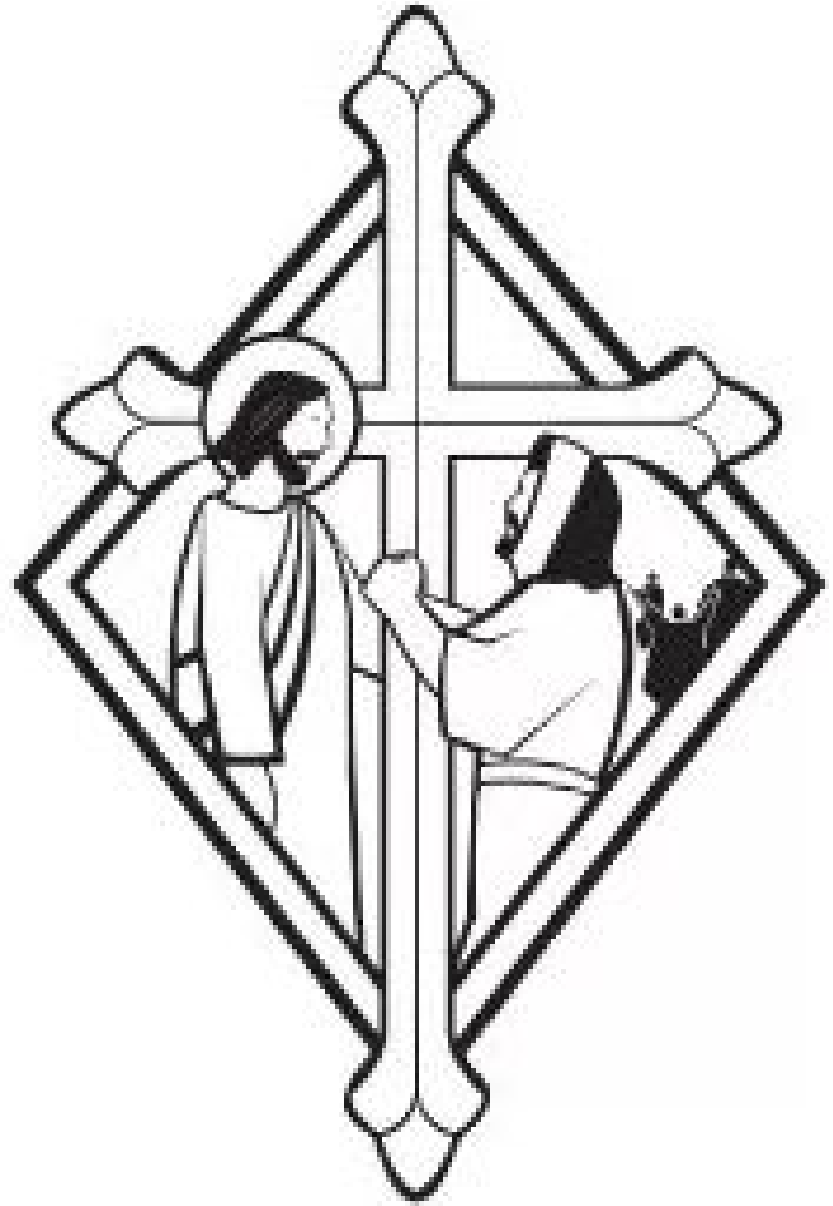
Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to, feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of

Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

--Abraham Lincoln - October 3, 1863

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
Thanksgiving Eve Worship  *Christian Thanksgiving*
(Ten Lepers)  November 22nd, 2017, 4:30pm



Historic Church Year Symbol (14th) **Sunday in Trinity: Luke 17:11-19 Thanksgiving**

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The Service of Vespers ✠ ELH p.120



11/22/17 SPECIAL THANKSGIVING EVE 4:30pm WELCOME to Worship

Please *rise*. INVOCATION, CONFESSION OF SINS & THE ABSOLUTION

OPENING HYMN *"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"* ELH #461 ST. GEORGE'S

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. For the LORD, our God, shall come - And shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall in that day - All offences 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.
4. 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.

The VERSICLES & The GLORIA PATRI ELH, p.120

PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

LECTION: SCRIPTURE LESSONS for Thanksgiving (printed on back page)

RESPONSORY ELH, p.122 C: ♪ *Thanks be to You, O LORD.*

The APOSTLES' CREED (ELH, p.46)

MAIN HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* ELH #463 FRED TIL BOD

1. For the beauty- of the earth, - For the glory of the skies,
For the love which- from our birth - Over and around us lies,
LORD of all,- to Thee we raise - This our hymn of grateful praise.
2. For the beauty- of each hour - Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and- tree and flow'r, - Sun and moon and stars of light,
LORD of all,- to Thee we raise - This our hymn of grateful praise.
3. For the joy of- human love, - Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and- friends above, - Pleasures pure and undefiled,
LORD of all,- to Thee we raise - This our hymn of grateful praise.
4. For Thy Church that- evermore - Lifts her holy hands above,
Off'ring up on- ev'ry shore - Her pure sacrifice of love,
LORD of all,- to Thee we raise - This our hymn of grateful praise.

HOMILY/SERMON Text: (The Apostles' Creed) *"Our Thankful Confession"*

VERSICLE C: ♪ *And the lifting up of my hands as the ev'ning sacrifice*

CANTICLE HYMN *Sing to the LORD of Harvest* ELH #464 (3v) WIE LIEBLICH IST

1. Sing to the LORD- of- harvest, - Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts- and- voices - Your alleluias raise:
By Him the rolling- seasons - In fruitful or-der- move;
Sing to the LORD- of- harvest - A song of happy of love.
2. By Him the clouds- drop- fatness, - The deserts bloom and spring;
The hills leap up- in- gladness, - The valleys laugh and sing:
He filleth with His- fullness - All things with large- in-crease;
He crowns the year- with- goodness, - With plenty, and with peace.
3. Heap on His sa-cred- altar - The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves- of- harvest, - The souls He died to save:
Your hearts lay down be-fore Him, - When at His feet- ye- fall,
And with your lives- a-dore Him - Who gave His life for all.

KYRIE ELEISON ELH, p.124 C: ♪ *Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, ...*

LORD'S PRAYER (Pastor prays/chants, Congregation join if comfortable)

C: ♪ *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowèd be- Thy Name--;*
Thy Kingdom come-, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven;
Give us this day our dai-ly 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, A- -men.

The (Evening) COLLECT (Pastor prays, Congregation Amen) C: ♪ A- -men.

The BENEDICAMUS P: ♪ *Let us bless the LORD.* C: ♪ *Thanks be to God.*

The BENEDICTION P: ♪ *The Grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, And the Love of God,*
And the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: ♪ A- -men.

CLOSING HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God* ELH #63 NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1. 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 - Hath 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 heaven adore!
FOR THUS IT WAS, IS NOW, - AND SHALL BE EVERMORE. AMEN.

A very blessed and safe Thanksgiving Day Weekend all !

HARVEST THANKSGIVING (Creed) "*OUR THANKFUL CONFESSION*" 11.22.17 OS

INTRODUCTION Tomorrow is **Thanksgiving Day**. While we certainly give thanks to God daily for all his blessings, Thanksgiving is a day for us to recommit ourselves and our lives to **thankfulness and praise to God**: thankfulness for everything He's done for us, and praise for all that He gives us. **St. Paul** says: *What do you have that thou did not receive? (1 Cor. 4:7b)*

The answer: nothing at all. All we have and all that we are we have received from the Hand of Almighty God. We acknowledge this truth every time we confess the Creed. So today, in preparation of our celebrations of Thanksgiving Day, let us **meditate on the Creed, and how it guides us in giving thanks to God.**

As we begin the Creed, we give thanks to God as we say: [Small Catechism: Creed: **First Article**] **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.**

Luther tells us that these truly are **words of thanksgiving to God**, for with these words we acknowledge that [Small Catechism: Creed: **First Article: Explanation**] ***God has made us and all creatures; that He has given us our bodies and souls, eyes and ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses, and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, spouse and children, fields, cattle, and all our goods; that He richly and daily provides us with all that we need to support this body and life; that He defends us against all danger, and guards and protects us from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness is us; for all which it is our duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him.*** This is most certainly true. (ELH, p.32)

By confessing in the creed that God has given and still gives us all things, we thank God. We thank him for our lives and everything we need to sustain them. We give thanks, saying along with the prophet Jeremiah (OT Lesson today): *Because of the LORD great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him." 25 The LORD is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; (Lamentations 3:22-25)*

In the **Second Article** of the Creed we give thanks for God's redemption and salvation in Christ Jesus. Together with the whole church we confess in thanksgiving: [Small Catechism: Creed: **Second Article**]

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. (ELH, p.32)

When we confess these words in heartfelt faith, we give thanks, for with these words we acknowledge that: [Small Catechism: Creed: **Second Article: Explanation**] ***We believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is our Lord, Who has redeemed us lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that we may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.*** (ELH, p.32)

Every time we say the Creed we give thanks for Jesus Christ and His Salvation. Not only has God the Father made us. Not only does He pour down His mercies new every morning but by his life, death, and Resurrection God the Son has delivered us from sin, death, the devil, and hell. Every moment of every day He keeps safe from every evil. Every second of the day Christ prays for us before the Father in Heaven. By His prayers and by His Sacrifice on the Cross, He gathers us into His Kingdom, and pours down on us His blessings of righteousness, innocence, blessedness and everlasting life. And thus He will bless us until He comes again in glory on the Last Day. By confessing these truths and our thanksgiving for them, we obey the words of the Apostle Paul, who says (our **Epistle** today): *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ... 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 Who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ... 6 Who gave Himself as a Ransom for all men ... 8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.* (1 Tim. 2:1,3,4,6,8)

Finally, in the last portion of the Creed we give thanks to God the **Holy Spirit** as we confess: [Small Catechism: Creed: **Third Article**] **I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body; and the Life everlasting.** (Amen.)

By these words we thank God the Holy Spirit for the gift of faith in Christ. We thank Him for gathering us into His Holy Church, that by His working through Word and Sacrament, we may receive the salvation accomplished for us in Jesus Christ. For by these words we confess that: [Small Catechism: Creed: **Third Article: Explanation**] ***We believe that we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with his gifts, sanctified and kept us in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers, and will at the Last Day raise up me and all the dead, and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life.***

As we make this confession, we do so with the one leper who returned to Jesus after being healed. Like He did for that leper, Christ has **healed us by forgiving all our sins**. Christ has cleansed us within in His Holy Christian Church. Christ has saved us from certain death by conquering death in His Resurrection. So, moved to faithfully receive such gracious gifts by the Holy Spirit of God, we bow our hearts and return to Christ and give Him thanks, for we too have been cleansed and welcomed into the Kingdom of God. We, too shall be raised from the dead and know the blessings of everlasting life. For on this day of Thanksgiving we hear Christ say to us what He said to that thankful man who had just been healed: *Arise, go your way: your faith hath made you whole. (Luke 17:19)* Today, tomorrow, and forever we say, **"Thank God."**

CONCLUSION Until that Great Day when our Lord comes again, let us keep in mind, and put into practice, the encouragement (given by the great Church Father, **St. John Chrysostom**): *"Let us then exhort the saints to give thanks for us. And let us exhort one another toward gratitude. Drawing near to God, we give thanks for the whole world and the good things we commonly share. So then let us give thanks also for the faith that others have toward God. This custom is an ancient one, planted in the Church from the beginning."*

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever."
IJ'N, Amen. SDG

The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, to Life Everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER FOR HARVEST THANKSGIVING

God our Father, You have created the universe in great wisdom, and sustain it by Your powerful word. You are good to everyone, and have compassion on all that You have made. We enter Your house of prayer with thanksgiving, and come before You with songs of joy. We thank You for the many blessings and joys You lavish on our lives. We thank You for soil and seed, sunlight and rain, health and strength, machinery and technology, and every other blessing by which You give us our daily bread. You have given us a plentiful land, rich in resources for agriculture, mining, and industry. You have blessed us with education and skills to use these resources for the good of our country and its people. Although You do not always spare us from severe weather and dark days, we still must confess that our cup of blessing is overflowing, and so we praise Your Name. Make us continually aware of Your goodness, O Lord. Increase our trust that in all things You are working for our good.

But, Lord, You not only care for our bodies; Your richest love is reserved for the **salvation of our souls**. Because You have revealed Yourself to us in Your Word, we know You in Your limitless grace, and live in the light of Your truth and love. We thank You especially for Your greatest of gifts: Jesus Christ our Saviour, and for all the blessings of the Gospel and the Church. Help us to appreciate fully these choicest gifts, and to produce in our lives a rich harvest of faith, goodness, and love.

Free us from every temptation to trust in uncertain things like **material wealth**. Free us from covetousness, envy, and jealousy. Increase our joy in what You provide, and make us content. Make us more sensitive to what others need. Give us compassion to help those who have too little, and the opportunities to share Your blessings. Let our service to others pave the way for witness to the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ Your Son. Teach us to use wisely the things You place at our disposal.

Bless and strengthen **the poor and the hungry**, those who cannot work, the lonely, the depressed, and especially those who are suffering because of their Christian faith. Give them all the generous help of friends, but, above all, strong trust in Your presence and care.

Guide the **nations on earth, and particularly those countries whose people are desperately poor**. Grant that all who look up to You for material blessings may find Your kingdom, and Your righteousness. Bless our country America with a united spirit and godly goals. Teach our leaders and people to know, believe, and do Your Will. Remove from us things that are unwise and harmful.

Continue to supply the spiritual needs of our families, so that truth, love, and high morals may bless our homes.

We offer You our prayers and our songs of praise, heavenly Father, in the Name of Your dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and honour for ever. **Amen.**