

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 3rd, 1863

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
Thanksgiving Eve Worship  *Christian Thanksgiving*
(1 of 10) Lepers  November 21st, 2018, 4:30pm





The Service of Vespers ✠ *ELH p.120*



11/21/18 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 *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.

HOMILY/SERMON Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-4 **THEME:** *"ALWAYS BE THANKFUL"*

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

CANTICLE HYMN *The LORD hath Helped Me Hitherto* **ELH #71** *(3v) ALLEIN GOTT*

1. The Lord hath helped me hitherto - By His surpassing favor;
His mercies every morn were new, - His kindness did not waver.
God hitherto hath been my Guide, - Hath pleasures hitherto supplied,
And hitherto hath helped me.
2. I praise and thank Thee, Lord, my God, - For Thine abundant blessing
Which heretofore Thou hast bestowed - And I am still possessing.
Inscribe this on my memory: - The Lord hath done great things for me
And graciously hath helped me.
3. Help me henceforth, O God of grace, - Help me on each occasion,
Help me in each and every place, - Help me through Jesus' Passion;
Help me in life and death, O God, - Help me through Jesus' dying blood;
Help me as Thou hast helped me!

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 THANKS 1 Timothy 2:1-4 "ALWAYS BE THANKFUL" 11.21.18 OSL

USA (FREEDOMS) As a nation, for now, we still cherish our freedoms. For example, we were freely able to come to worship today, without the fear of being imprisoned or even executed for our faith. We don't fear any severe backlash from the community at large for what we believe. Sure, there are always those around who might smirk or even say we are loonies to our face, but we don't feel threatened too much by their comments.

CHURCH & STATE Furthermore, it is not demanded of us by our government who we are to reverence. (For the most part) We still have **separation of Church & State**. We believe that the State shall not tell the Church what to believe. But for all their differences, both of these realms still have **one thing** in common. Both of these have been **given to us by our great and gracious Giver, God**. For this reason, **St. Paul** (also) encourages us to pray for, among other things, our secular rulers so we can live in peace. He writes, *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.* This passage applies to **all Christians in all nations**, as God has instituted government, regardless of its form, for the general welfare and protection of the entire nation, Christians and non-Christians alike.

THANK GOD We are obligated to give thanks to the Lord, not because the government says we must, but simply because we are moved by God's goodness. God gives, and we respond to all of God's gifts to us through our prayers to Him, our praise of Him, and our giving Him thanks.

LIFE(=)LITURGY As Christians, we live a **liturgical life**. This means that even as we, through the liturgy of the Church, respond to what our Lord has done for us, we in **our daily lives** respond to what our Lord has given us by giving thanks to Him. **The way we live is a liturgical life of response to God's gifts**. It is for this reason that we are here today, just as when we are here each Sunday. But it does not matter on which day we are here in the Lord's house. **Our lives are to be a daily thanksgiving to the Lord**. **Reformer Martin Luther** spoke well of what it means to **give thanks** in a lecture on this Text. He says:

This also pertains to Christians. Gratitude always merits the receipt of more; ingratitude drains the fountain of divine goodness.

∇ *Gratitude consists of more than the expression "I thank You, Lord God." It also involves acknowledging first that it is a gift of God, ... This gratitude consists not only in our words alone but principally in our acknowledgement of the blessing we have received. Those people are rare who make such an acknowledgement. Gratitude must be involved with prayers, because we must confess the gifts we have received. [LW 28:258]*

INGRATE/S This is so very true, and yet, there is something else we must confess, and that is **our sin**. All of us are guilty of the **sin of ingratitude**. Our sinful hearts are selfish. We are more interested in what we can get rather than from Whom we have received our gifts - Namely, **Our Heavenly Father**. He gives us not merely the extraordinary things, but He also gives us each day our daily bread. As Luther teaches in the **Fourth Petition** of the Lord's Prayer, *"God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realise this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."*

4TH-PETITION **Luther** explains also what is meant by **daily bread**, *"everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbours, and the like."* **All that we have and all that we are have their origins in our Creator, the Triune God**. Yet we are so absorbed in our own lives, in our own problems, that we fail regularly to recognise the Source of our gifts, our possessions. We are **selfish**, and we are **self-idolatrous**. We would rather get things than give thanks. And we are also **ungrateful**.

BUT, STILL(!)... The stunning part though is that **God gives everything we need whether we thank Him OR NOT**. If you fail to give thanks to God for your food today, He will still provide food for you tomorrow. In fact, **He provides food for ALL PEOPLE**, whether they thank Him or not. Even when people give thanks and credit **to a false god**, (the One True) God still provides what they need for this life anyway, **to give them time to live and believe in Him**. That's why it is so good and right for us to have a Harvest Thanksgiving service, so that we would be reminded to give thanks to The LORD, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever.

GOD HAS DONE In (study of) the **Apostles' Creed**, we confess what our Triune God **has already done for us**. In the Creed, we learn to confess that "...*all this He does purely out of Fatherly, divine, goodness and mercy, without any merit and worthiness in us. For all this we are duty-bound to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true*" (First Article). Our God has made us, given us each day our daily bread, defends us, has redeemed us, called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with His gifts, sanctified and kept us in the true faith, forgives us, and will raise us and **give us Eternal Life. And for all of this we get to thank our God**. God has first given us all of these things, and, in our liturgical lives we respond to our Lord's goodness and give Him thanks - every day as we live our **Baptism** through daily contrition, repentance, and **thanksgiving**.

BEST GIFT The Greatest Gift for which we give thanks is **the Gift of God's Son, our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**. Our Lord has come into this world to **take our sins upon Himself**, to become **our sin**, and pay with His very life the penalty we by our sins have deserved, giving His body and shedding His blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

EUCCHARIST And, this is the same Body and Blood He gives us in the Holy Eucharist. Eucharist is Greek for "**thanksgiving**." **The Lord's Supper is the Great Thanksgiving**. When we come to receive the Sacrament, this "Thanksgiving," we see **and taste** what He won on the Cross for us, and **we in turn give thanks for the gifts** He has given us in this great Feast. We thank our Lord for first **loving** us, for **dying for us**, and for **rising** from the dead for us, that we will, through faith, one day dine with Him at the Eternal Feast.

UNTIL THEN (...WAITING) Until that (Great) Day when our LORD comes again, let us keep in mind, and put into practice, the encouragement given to us 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 ancient custom is in the church from the beginning.*"

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God; for it is good and right so to do,
"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever."

IJ'N, Amen. *The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in faith and thanks to Christ Jesus until 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.**