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A Member Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Midweek Devotions Wednesday in the Last Week after Pentecost November 25, 2020



Service of the Word on the National Observance of Thanksgiving

¥ In the Name of Jesus! ¥

The Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 785

"We Praise You, O God"

- 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.
- 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 struggles we win.

The Hymn continues on the next page...

With voices united our praises we offer
 And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
 With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
 To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15, 70:1 and 118:1

- P O Lord, open my lips,
- **C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- **P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- make haste to help me, O Lord.
- **P** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
- **C** for His steadfast love endures forever.
- 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. Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia!

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 103:1-5, 8-14, 17-22

- P ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
- ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
- who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- 4who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ...
- The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- P ⁹He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- P ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

- ¹³As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
- ¹⁴For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. ...
- P ¹⁷But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,

- ¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.
- ¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
- 20Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!
- P ²¹Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!
- ²²Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!
- 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.

The Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 8:14-15; 9:7-10

¹⁴There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. ¹⁵And I commend joy, for man has no good thing under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun. ...

⁷Go, eat your bread in joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

⁸Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

⁹Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. ¹⁰Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Philippians 4:6-13

⁶[D]o not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, 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. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I 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. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel Luke 12:16-21

¹⁶And [Jesus] 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."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

The Meditation



"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 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 blessèd 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.

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The Prayers

The Litany of Thanksgiving:

P 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.
- For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
- **C** We thank You, Lord.
- **P** For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and for our friends,
- **C** We thank You, Lord.

- **P** For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
- **C** We thank You, Lord.
- **P** For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
- **C** We thank You, Lord.
- P For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
- **C** We thank You, Lord.
- **P** For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
- **C** We thank You, Lord.
- **P** For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
- **C** We thank You, Lord.
- Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Your unworthy servants give You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom You have made.

We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of Glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of Your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth Your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Your service, and by walking before You in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

- P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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 Collect of the Day:

- Let us pray.

 Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

The Collect for Peace:

- O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

The Benediction:

- **P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the

 → Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C Amen.



Acknowledgments

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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