

Order of Worship for November 22, 2023

THE PRELUDE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

THE OPENING HYMN: “*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*” – Hymn #893

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

C: Holy and gracious God, I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sins I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some of my sin is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. I especially confess that I am not always thankful for the abundant blessings that you pour down so graciously upon me. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C: **Amen.**

The Psalm of Thanksgiving: Psalm 136

THE READINGS FROM GOD’S WORD FOR THANKSGIVING EVE

The Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us." The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labor. Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty

hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Gospel Lesson: Luke 17:11-19

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?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

THE CREED: (Luther's explanation to the first article of the Apostle's Creed)

All: I believe that God made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes ears, and all my members. My reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life; that He defends me from all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil; and all this He does purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all that it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

THE SERMON HYMN: *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”* – Hymn #790

THE THANKSGIVING MESSAGE: *“Giving Thanks”* Luke 17:11-19

THE OFFERING HYMN: *“Praise and Thanksgiving”* – Hymn #789

THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (Written by Richard G. Kapfer)

P: O God, great, good, gracious Giver of all gifts, on this day with grateful hearts we prize life’s multitude of gifts.

C: Accept our thanks, O Creator!

P: For the sheer fun of hearing things: good music, loud laughter, bird songs, family voices, spring rain, rippling brook, dry leaves, squeaking snow, friendly greetings, fireplace logs, stimulating conversation, good jokes, new ideas, machinery noise, musical instruments, summer insects, baseball hits, stadium cheers, for church bells, hymns, and prayers I love to hear; and for all the unforgettable moments our ears have heard for us,

C: Accept our thanks, gracious Lord!

P: For the sheer glory of seeing things: rainbows, water lilies, moonlight, pro football on TV, ancient sculpture, modern art, the first spring flower, summer roses, autumn maples, winter landscapes, spiral galaxies, a triple play, the grace and beauty of the human form, living cells, friendly smiles, a good movie, fresh turned earth, skilled performances, delft needlework, ocean tides, church spires, sun-drenched stained glass windows, and Your flowered and decorated sanctuary; for all the unforgettable moments our eyes have seen for us,.

C: Accept our thanks, merciful Lord!

P: For the sheer joy of feeling things: clean sheets, scratching and tickling, morning dew, the first frost, thawing breezes, good golf swings, swimming power, silk, sandpaper, relaxed muscles, hot baths, excitement, achievements, success, security, belonging, a child’s hand in mine; for the grace of Your cup against our lips, and for all the unforgettable moments our touch has felt for us,

C: Accept our thanks, wonderful God!

P: For the sheer delight of tasting things: roasted meats, summer strawberries, autumn pumpkin pies, birthday cakes, hot coffee, crisp salads, pretzels, aged cheese, potlucks, picnics, fresh baked goods, chocolate ice cream, dinner out, midnight snacks: for the redeeming and forgiving joy of Your sacred feast, and for all the unforgettable moments our taste has savored for us,

C: Accept our thanks, loving Lord!

P: For the sheer joy of smelling things: onions in the stew, hickory smoke, spring lilacs, summer air, autumn bonfires, winter fur, fresh-cut limes, rain soaked earth, hot bread,

jelly in the making, pine trees, waxed wood, soft leather, fragrance of the candles of Your altar: and for all the unforgettable moments our breathing discovers for us,

C: Accept our thanks, heavenly Father!

P: In all we do—whether in hearing, seeing, feeling, tasting, or smelling, help us, Lord, to find beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness; and then,

C: Accept our thanks, O Lord, our God!

P: For all the blessings received in Your house: the touch of the life-giving water of Baptism, the hand of blessing in Confirmation, the ring placed on the finger before Your altar, the comfort of Your Word, and the support of those who shared our grief, for the times we have felt deep within us Your forgiveness and peace, and for all the unforgettable moments we have spent in Your house,

C: Accept our thanks, almighty God!

P: For the overwhelming gift of Your Son: for His life in the flesh as one of us, for His constant love in the face of hatred, for His suffering in our place, for His resurrection and our new life in Him, for all He is to us and for us, and for all He means,

C: Accept our thanks, blessed Lord!

P: We thank You also, good Lord, for the privilege of praying together:

C: Our Father . . .

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Almighty God, whose mercies are new every morning and whose goodness, though undeserved, still abundantly provides for all our wants of body and soul, grant us, we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING (Pastor)

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “We Praise You, O God” – Hymn #785

THE POSTLUDE