



Worship Guide

Thanksgiving Eve
November 26, 2015



The Gathering

PASTOR'S GREETING

SONGS OF THANKS AND PRAISE

following each prayer spoken by the minister and a brief introduction by the organist, the congregation sings the hymn stanza that follows

M: We praise and thank you, gracious Lord, for your indescribable gift, our Savior Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil that we might be your own and live in your kingdom forever.

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare to make no other claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

(Tune CW 382)

M: We praise and thank you, gracious Lord, for the gift of your Word and Sacraments, through which you give us faith in your Son and the desire to serve you in all we say and do.

**O Lord, let this your little flock, your name alone confessing,
Continue in your loving care, true unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord, and your saving Word
To us e'er pure retain. Grant that they may remain
Our only strength and comfort.**

(Tune CW 536)

M: We praise and thank you, gracious Lord, for the gift of life and health and the abundance of our earthly blessings.

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; his light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

(Tune CW 260)

M: We praise and thank you, gracious Lord, for the comfort you give us when our hearts are heavy and troubles overwhelm us.

**If God himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster can drive me from his love?**

(Tune CW 419)

M: We praise and thank you, gracious Lord, for the victory you have given to our friends and loved ones who have died and now live with you in glory.

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
You, Lord, their captain, in the well-fought fight
And in the darkness drear their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

(Tune CW 551)

M: For all your gifts, gracious Lord, for your blessings to body and soul that are new to us every morning, and for the many years of blessings you have bestowed on our beloved congregation, we praise and thank you now and always.

**Praise to the Lord! Oh, 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!** *(Tune CW 234)*

M: Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for 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.

**FIRST LESSON
28:1-10**

Deuteronomy

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: 3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. 4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock--the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. 5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. 6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. 7 The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. 8 The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. 9 The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. 10

Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you.

Psalm 135

spoken by congregation

Praise the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD; praise him, you servants of the LORD, 2 you who minister in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God. 3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant. 4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession. 5 I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. Praise be to the LORD from Zion, to him who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

SECOND LESSON:

1 Timothy 4:1-6

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

Psalm 150

spoken by congregation

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, 4 praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with

resounding cymbals. 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Gospel:

Luke 12: 22-31

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? 27 "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

HYMN: CW 233

All People that on Earth Do Dwell

ADDRESS

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

HYMN: CW 609
Redeemer

We Praise You, O God, Our

Confession of Faith

**from Luther's *Small Catechism*
Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer**

M: "Give us today our daily bread" — what does this mean?

C: **God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**

M: What, then, is meant by "daily bread"?

C: **Daily bread includes everything that we need for our bodily welfare, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, land and cattle, money and goods, a godly spouse, godly children, godly workers, godly and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace and order, health, a good name, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.**

Offering Prayer

C: **Lord of heaven and earth, in love you have given us more than we need or deserve; with thankful hearts, we present our offerings to you. Use our gifts that your work and your word may continue to prosper and grow. Amen.**

OFFERING: *To our visitors: Our offering is not a debt we owe God, but a way that we give back to God a small portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation, but love for God. Please do not feel obligated in any way to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.*

Please stand.

A Litany of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

C: **God's love is everlasting.**

M: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

C: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

M: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For family; for living and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For the young; for their high hopes; for their candid criticism; for their search for independence:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; for time made precious by its passing:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for preserving us in temptation and danger:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

M: For the Church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by Word and sacrament; for our life together in the Lord:

C: **We praise you, O God.**

M: For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love, who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship:

C: **We praise you, O God.**

M: Above all, O God, for your Son, Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him:

C: **We thank and praise you, eternal God, for all your goodness to us.**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

C: **God's love is everlasting. Amen.**

M: With gratitude that we can talk to you as loved children talk to their loving father, we pray:

C: **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.**

Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

HYMN: CW 610

Now Thank We All Our God