

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Give Thanks to God!

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

As We Gather

At the corner of Hayden Hill and Walkley Hill roads in Haddam, Connecticut, stands the colonial home of one of the early resident families of that little town on the Connecticut River: the Thankful Arnold House. Now the location for the town's Historical Society, it is the home where Thankful Clark Arnold and her husband, Joseph, raised their twelve children, beginning in 1798. The house stayed in the family for over 150 years until a family member gifted it to the local community. At one time, "Thankful" was a proper and common name for girls and women. It served as a testimony to the goodness of God throughout that individual's life. In his "Song of Thanks" recorded in First Chronicles, King David exclaimed "Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!" (16:8). No matter what personal name we may carry throughout our lives, we can individually express our great thankfulness to God for all the blessings that we receive day by day and season after season.

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences

P: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever.

P: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,

C: and all Your saints shall bless You!

P: I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good.

C: We, Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; from generation to generation we will recount Your praise.

Opening Hymn "For the Fruits of His Creation" *LSB* 894

Confession and Absolution

P: I will go to the altar of God, **C: to God my exceeding joy.**

P: If we confess our sins, our God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.

C: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, creator of all things, we confess that we are indeed sin-filled people. We are by nature sinful, and sin is present in our lives each day, in thought, word, and deed. We know that have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You require of us. We have not always lived lives that reflect thankfulness to You, the giver of all that is good. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Lord, who is the source of our salvation. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live faithfully and with great gratitude here on earth until that time beyond time when we rejoice together in Your eternal presence.

P: Our God has promised to hear us and to grant forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for His grace and mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you be kept steadfast in the Holy Spirit, living each day in thankfulness to God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn of Praise "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" *LSB* 892

Sequence of Thanks

P: Often in conjunction with the celebration of a Day of Thanksgiving, people individually express that for which they are thankful. A thankful remembrance can well be a blessing. Most important, however, is that proper thanks be directed to the source of every blessing—to our gracious God. The sacred writer of the book of Lamentations reminds us, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end” (3:22). As those who confess the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—it is well that we direct our thanks to each person of the blessed Trinity, beginning with God the Father, our creator and preserver. After listing some of the dynamics of God’s bounty in the “what does this mean” response to the First Article of the Creed, Martin Luther concludes, “For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him” (*LSB*, p. 322).

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 8:1–10*

(*after the reading*)...L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *Philippians 4:6–20*

(*after the reading*)...L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

L: Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Holy Gospel *Luke 17:11–19*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*after the reading*)...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day “We Praise You, O God” *LSB* 785

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Offering & Attendance/Involvement Cards

(*Thanksgiving Offerings will go to Lutheran Family Services*)

Prayer of the Church

P: (*after each request*)... We thank You,

C: for Your steadfast love endures forever.

Preface

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Distribution

Distribution Hymns "Praise and Thanksgiving" *LSB* 789 and
"Now Thank We All Our God" *LSB* 895

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P: Let us bless God together. **C: My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, and never forget all His blessings. It is He who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion, and who fills your life with good things. Give thanks to the Lord, all His works, in every place where He rules. My soul, give thanks to the Lord! Give praise to the Father Almighty, to His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord, and to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts both now and forever. Amen.**

Sequence of Thanks

P: As God's thankful people, we praise God the Son for His work of redemption and for His blessed example of giving thanks. In the familiar "Words of Our Lord" at the time of Holy Communion, we are reminded that when Jesus was at the Table with the disciples in the Upper Room on the night He was betrayed, He gave thanks. Jesus gave thanks as part of His worship life, and He lived His daily life with gratefulness, interacting graciously with friends and followers alike. Also we give thanks to the Holy Spirit, who dwells in our hearts and who richly and daily blesses God's people with priceless gifts that strengthen our fellowship on earth and give us a foretaste of heaven.

Prayer

P: Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" *LSB* 893