

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

November 21, 2018

7:00 pm

Isaiah 9:3



They
rejoice before you
as with *joy* at the
harvest.



THANKSGIVING EVE

Gratitude Is Contentment from A to Z

AS WE GATHER

Gratitude does not depend on what is given or what is received. Gratitude is an attitude of the heart. One with a grateful heart stops immediately. Nothing else can go on until thanksgiving is expressed. That is what we see in the one leper who is healed. He cannot go back to his old life, nor can he begin his new life until he returns to Jesus, the source of healing, and offers Him thanks and praise. Our nation has been richly blessed by God. Each of us has received mercies new every morning. The key to contentment and peace is neither the abundance of gifts nor an absence, but a heart that returns thanks to the source of those gifts. Today we pause to do that, as a nation, as a people, and as Christians.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Focus Thought for Worship: *If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it; If God had a wallet, your photo would be in it He sends you flowers every spring; He sends you a sunrise every morning. Face it, friend – He’s crazy about you!*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC “Now Thank We All Our God” J.S. Bach

GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

OPENING HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God” LSB 895

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

A PSALM OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING - PSALM 65

Pastor: What mighty praise, O God, belongs to You!
We will fulfill our vows to You,
for You answer our prayers
and to You all people will come.

Men: *Those who live at the ends of the earth
stand in awe at Your wonders.
From where the sun rises to where it sets,
You inspire shouts of joy!*

Women: *You take care of the earth and water it,
making it rich and fertile.
The rivers of God will not run dry;
They provide a bountiful harvest of grain,
for You have ordered it so.*

Men: *You drench the plowed ground with rain,
melting the clods and leveling the ridges.
You soften the earth with showers
and bless its abundant crops.*

Women: *You crown the year with a bountiful harvest;
even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.
The wilderness becomes a lush pasture,
and the hillsides blossom with joy.*

ALL: **The meadows are clothed with flocks of sheep,
And the valleys are carpeted with grain.
They all shout and sing for joy!**

Pastor: We sing for joy, O God! We come together today to acknowledge Your generosity and Your goodness toward us. We are blessed. Our nation is blessed. We will not forget to bring You the sacrifice of praise, and enter Your gates with thanksgiving! We come to You as thankful people!

Come, You Thankful People Come LSB 892

1 Come, you thank - ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home,
 2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to his praise to yield.
 3 Ev - en so, Lord, quick - ly come To your fin - al har - vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 Gath - er all your peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our mak - er, does pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In your gam - er to a - bide.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
 Come, with all your an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (FORGIVENESS)

Pastor: "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear." (Matthew 6:25)

People: "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

Pastor: God has promised to provide for all our needs, both in this life and in the next. Yet our flesh is weak when we are called to live by faith and not by sight. Let us confess our sins of doubt and worry instead of clinging to God's great promises of provision. Merciful God,

People: We confess we have not always trusted in Your promises to care for us. Though You give us "rain from heaven and crops in their seasons" (Acts 14:17) we still worry about basics, as if we didn't have a loving, heavenly Father. You say we are "worth more than many sparrows" (Acts 10:31) yet we fret over material things. You give us "everything we need for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3) yet we grumble as if we had nothing. Our prayers sound like laundry lists of desires. Too few of our prayers

are thanksgiving for blessings! You tell us to “give thanks in all circumstances” but we barely give thanks in good times, much less in bad times. Forgive our ungrateful hearts, for Jesus’ sake. Fill us now with Your Holy Spirit, that we may thrill to your promises and trust in your providence.

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. For the sake of Jesus and his atoning death, the ingratitude of your heart is forgiven and your guilt is washed away. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good and your many offenses are blotted out from His sight through Jesus’ blood, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us bring Him the sacrifice of praise!

People: And offer Him the sacrifice of joy!

SONGS OF RESPONSE

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise BOB #234

Kirk Dearman © 1984 John T. Benson Publishing Co., ARR UBP CCLI#1903595

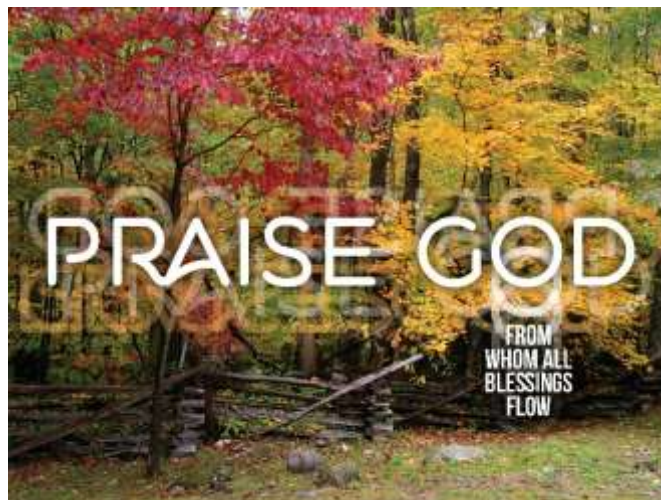
The image shows a musical score for the song 'We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves end with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

We bring the sac-ri-fice of praise_____ in-to the house of the Lord;

We bring the sac-ri-fice of praise_____ in-to the house of the Lord. And we

of - fer up to You_____ the sac - ri - fic - es of thanks - giv - ing; And we

of - fer up to You_____ the sac - ri - fic - es of joy.



O God, Beyond all Praising WOV #797

Text: Michael Perry © 1982 Hope Publishing, ARR UBP CCLI #19035957; Tune: Gustav Holst; arr. R. Hobby

1 O__ God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day and__ sing the love a - maz - ing that
2 Then__ hear, O gra-cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring, that__ we who know your fa - vor may

songs can-not re - pay; for__ we can on - ly won - der at__ ev - 'ry gift you send. at -
serve you as our king; and__ wheth - er our to - mor - rows be__ fill'd with good or ill, we'll__

bles - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end: we__ lift our hearts be - fore__ you and
tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still: to__ mar - vel at your beau - ty and

wait up - on your Word, we__ hon - or and a - dore__ you, our great and might - y Lord.
glo - ry in your ways, and__ make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

✧ WORD ✧

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 8:1-10 (Give thanks to God for His gift of the land.)

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: Philippians 4:6-20
(God will supply every need.)

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

HYMN “In Holy Conversation” [St. 1: *LSB 772*]

Lector: Finally, 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. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. I 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. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I 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. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

HYMN “In Holy Conversation” [St. 2: *LSB 772*]

Lector: Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN “In Holy Conversation” [St. 3: *LSB 772*]

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

(Jesus gives healing to ten, but only one returns to give thanks.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Great is Thy Faithfulness" LSB 809

SERMON "Something Missing?" Pastor John Larson
Text: I Thessalonians 5:16-18

OFFERING "We Gather Together" arr. Anna Laura Page
Gloria Dei Ringers

OFFERTORY "We Are An Offering" BOB #231
Dwight Liles © 1984 Bug and Bear Music, ARR UBP CCLI#1903595
(Sung as the offerings are brought forward)

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an
of - fer - ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our
hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

Pastor: Scripture tell us of God's abundant love and provision. As God's Word speaks of abundant crops, flowing streams, minerals and copper, wheat and barley, we are reminded of our own country. We pause now to remember the source of these great blessings and how privileged we all are in this land of plenty. "O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good,

All: And his mercy endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

Pastor: We thank you for everything, Lord, from A to Z...

Men: For **A**merica and **A**ll our freedoms;

Women: For the **B**ible and **B**aseball;

Men: For **C**hrist, His **C**hurch and all His **C**hildren;

Women: For **D**ads who **D**iscipline with love;

Men: For **E**aster, **E**yes to see, and **E**ars to hear;

Women: For **F**aith, **F**ood, **F**riends and **F**amily;

Men: For **G**od, as He works all things together for our **G**ood;

Women: For **H**ealth, **H**appiness and the **H**allelujah Chorus;

Men: For **I**ce cream and **I**mmortality;

Women: For **J**esus and the **J**oy of the Lord;

Men: For the **K**indness of others, especially nurses, doctors, mailmen, teachers, firefighters and policemen;

Women: For **P**astor **L**arson; For **L**ife in Jesus and a good night's sleep, a comfortable pair of shoes, a glass of cold water, and a daily newspaper;

Men: For **M**others who love and care;

Women: For good **N**eighbors, **N**ephews and **N**ieces;

Men: For the beautiful **O**utdoors and sunsets in **O**range;

Women: For **P**eace, **P**arents, **P**icnics, **P**opcorn and the mighty **P**ipe Organ;

Men: For **Q**uiet times to rest, relax, reflect;

Women: For **R**ainbows and the **R**ight word at the **R**ight time;

Men: For **S**enior citizens with wit and wisdom; for **S**ingle persons with joy and hope;

Women: For **T**oes to dance, **T**eeth to chew, homegrown **T**omatoes and President **T**ump;

Men: For **U**nexpected joys, like an email from a child in college;

Women: For **V**egetables and **V**acations;

Men: For **W**orship and godly **W**onder at all His benefits;

Women: For the **X**tra things God gives us, way beyond our actual "needs";

Men: For Youth and Young folks who follow Jesus;

ALL: For Zoos, Zebras and Zest for living;

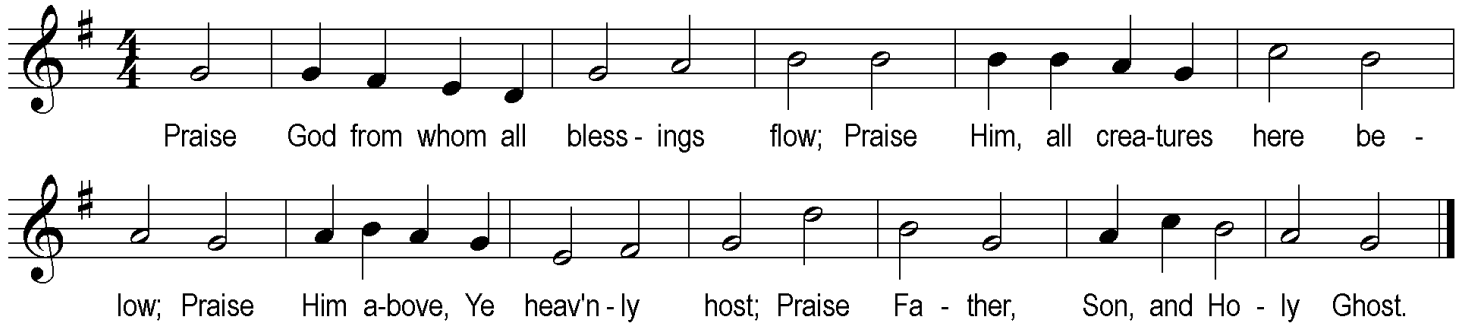
Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good from A to Z!

ALL: And his mercy endures from everlasting to everlasting!

COMMON DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom all Blessings Flow

Text: Thomas Ken; Tune: Louis Bourgeois; Public Domain, arr. D. Blair



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be -
low; Praise Him a-bove, Ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

Before we share our monetary gifts or come to the altar for forgiveness through Christ's Body and Blood, we share Christ's peace, greeting one another with the words such as, "Peace be with you."



HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. Colossians 3:1
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Psalm 136
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is good and right, our duty and our delight, to give thanks to You, Lord God, our heavenly Father, from whom all things come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Word through whom all things came into being. Mindful of all Your gifts and gathered by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we offer You thanks and praise for all Your goodness and for Your kindness in bestowing upon us everlasting life. Therefore with all the angels and the company of heaven we offer You thanks and praise, singing:



TE DEUM

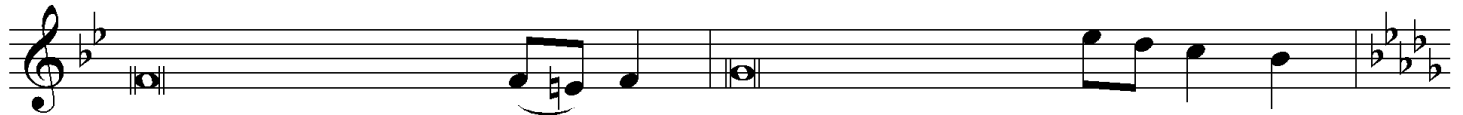
(*"We Praise You, O God"* - Divine Service, Matins, LSB p. 223)



1 We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord. All the earth now worships you, the Fa-ther ev-er - last - ing.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth; heav'n and earth are full of the majes - ty of your glo - ry.
3 The noble army of martyrs praise__ you. The holy Church throughout all the world does ac-know-ledge you:



1 To you all angels cry aloud, the heav'ns and all the pow'rs there-in. To you cherubim and seraphim con-tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise you. The goodly fellowship of the proph - ets praise you.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; your adorable, true, and on - ly Son; also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.



4 You are the king of glory, O__ Christ; you are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



5 When you took upon yourself to de - liv - er man, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When you had overcome the sharp-ness of death, you opened the kingdom of heav'n to all be - liev - ers.
6 We believe that you__ will come to be__ our__ judge.



7 We therefore pray you to help your ser - vants, whom you have redeem - ed with your pre-cious blood.



7 Make them to be numbered with your saints in glory ev - er - last - ing.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give You thanks, almighty God, for Your patient love that bore with us sinners, who deserved only Your wrath. You gave us Your Law to protect us from harm and sent forth Your promise through the prophets to sustain us in the hope of a Savior. In the fullness of days, You delivered up Your own Son, born of the Virgin by the Holy Spirit, to fulfill all righteousness for us and to offer Himself as the one, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sin and for the sin of the whole world. Before He was betrayed to His voluntary sufferings, He established a memorial of His death, through which He offers to us His body in bread and His blood in wine, that we might be forgiven of our sins and strengthened by His grace to everlasting life.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

Found in the back cover of the Hymnal

AGNUS DEI (Divine Service, Setting One)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant _____ us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

arr. Healey Willan
Ascension Chorale

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

LSB 789

“Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart”

LSB 806

“For the Fruits of His Creation”

LSB 894

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, from Your hand we receive all good gifts, and by Your grace we are guarded from all evil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that, acknowledging with our whole heart Your boundless goodness, we may now and evermore thank and praise You for Your loving-kindness and tender mercy and enjoy the rich fruit of contentment, peace, and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Based on Psalm 113:3; Philippians 4:6–7*

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: may the name of the Lord be praised.

Pastor: Without anxiety or fear, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, offer Your requests to God.

People: And may the peace of God which surpasses all our understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God—Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit—remain with you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LSB 790

POSTLUDE “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”

Paul Manz





*O taste and see that
the **Lord** is Good; happy are
those who take refuge in **him**.*

Psalm 34:8

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide

ELDER 7:00
LECTOR 7:00
ACOLYTE 7:00
USHERS 7:00
ALTAR GUILD

Bill Redden
Larry Westra
Nolan Pierce
Members of the Congregation
Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Dawn
Munson, Cathy Utecht

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