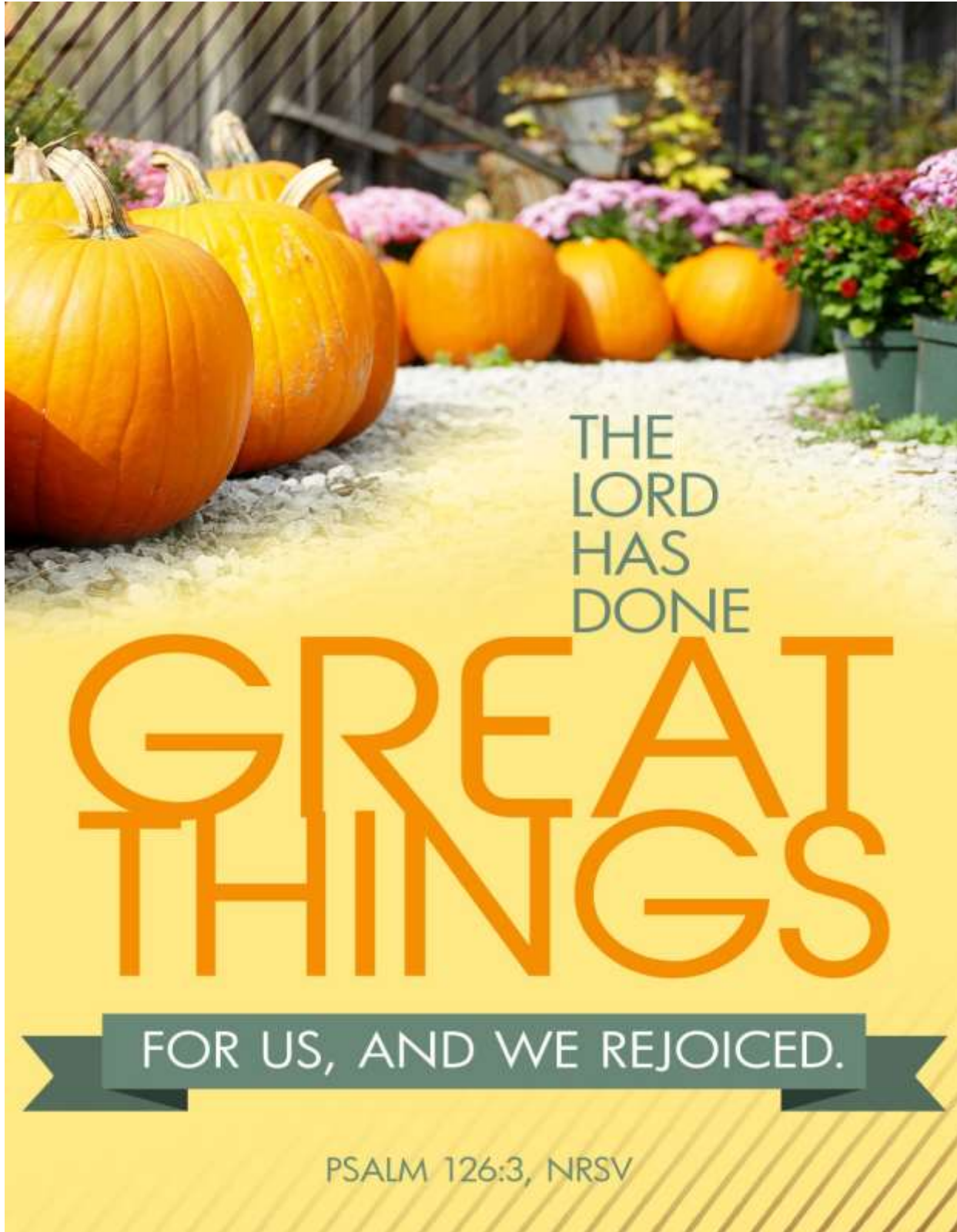


# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*November 25, 2020*

7:00 p.m.



THE  
LORD  
HAS  
DONE

GREAT  
THINGS

FOR US, AND WE REJOICED.

PSALM 126:3, NRSV



# Thanksgiving

## WORSHIP SERVICE

### THANKSGIVING EVE

Giving Thanks

#### **AS WE GATHER**

We celebrate Thanksgiving, a day dedicated to remembering all that God has done for us and thanking Him for His abundant blessings. Though you may have food to cook and relatives to entertain, let's take a moment and pause before the Lord, who has provided You with many blessings, chief among them sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to give you eternal life.

#### **✘ PREPARATION ✘**

**PRELUDE**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Sigfried Karg-Elert

**GREETING**



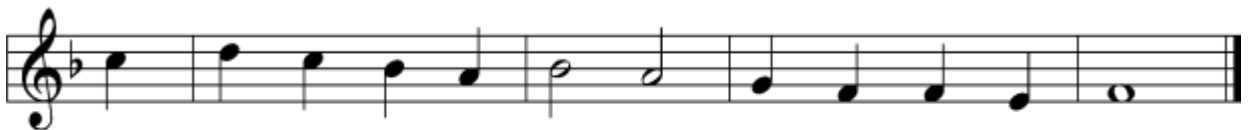
1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,  
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,  
 △ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;  
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us  
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way  
 And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed  
 The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.  
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

**Pastor:** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**People:** His steadfast love endures forever.

**Pastor:** He has created us together with all creatures.

**People:** He has given us our bodies and souls, eyes, ears, and all our members.

**Pastor:** He has given us our reason and all our senses and still takes care of them.

**People:** He has given us clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home.

**Pastor:** He has given us our spouses and children, our land, animals, and all that we have.

**People:** He richly and daily gives us all that we need to support our bodies and lives.



Pastor: He defends us against all danger and guards and protects us from all evil.

People: **All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.**

Pastor: For all this it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

People: **This is most certainly true.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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,*

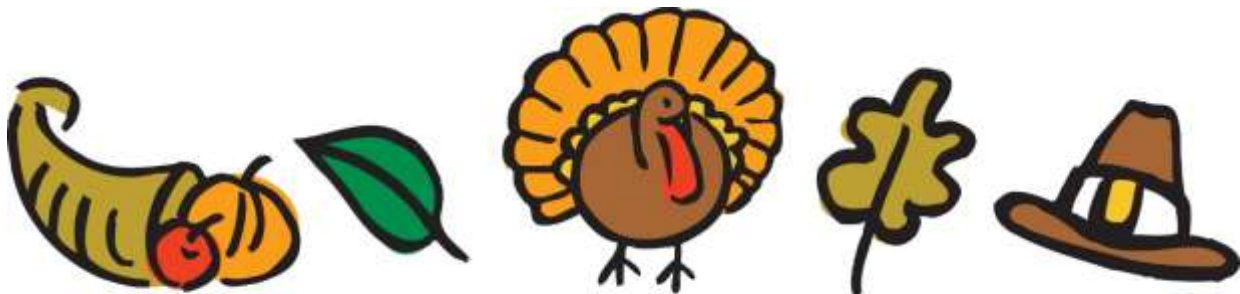
People: **We confess we have not always trusted in Your promises to care for us. Though You give us “rain from heaven and crops in their seasons” (Acts 14:17) we still worry about basics, as if we didn’t have a loving, heavenly Father. You say we are “worth more than many sparrows” (Acts 10:31) yet we 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!**



SO MANY BLESSINGS

## SONG OF RESPONSE

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise BOB #234

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

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: '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.'

✂ WORD ✂

### OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 8:1–10

(Remember the Lord's goodness.)

**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**

(Do not be anxious. God provides.)

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me.**

**Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.*

**VERSE** *Psalm 136:1*

Pastor: Alleluia. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

People: **For His steadfast love endures forever. Alleluia.**





**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 17:11–19**

(Jesus cleanses ten lepers. One returns to give thanks.)

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

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

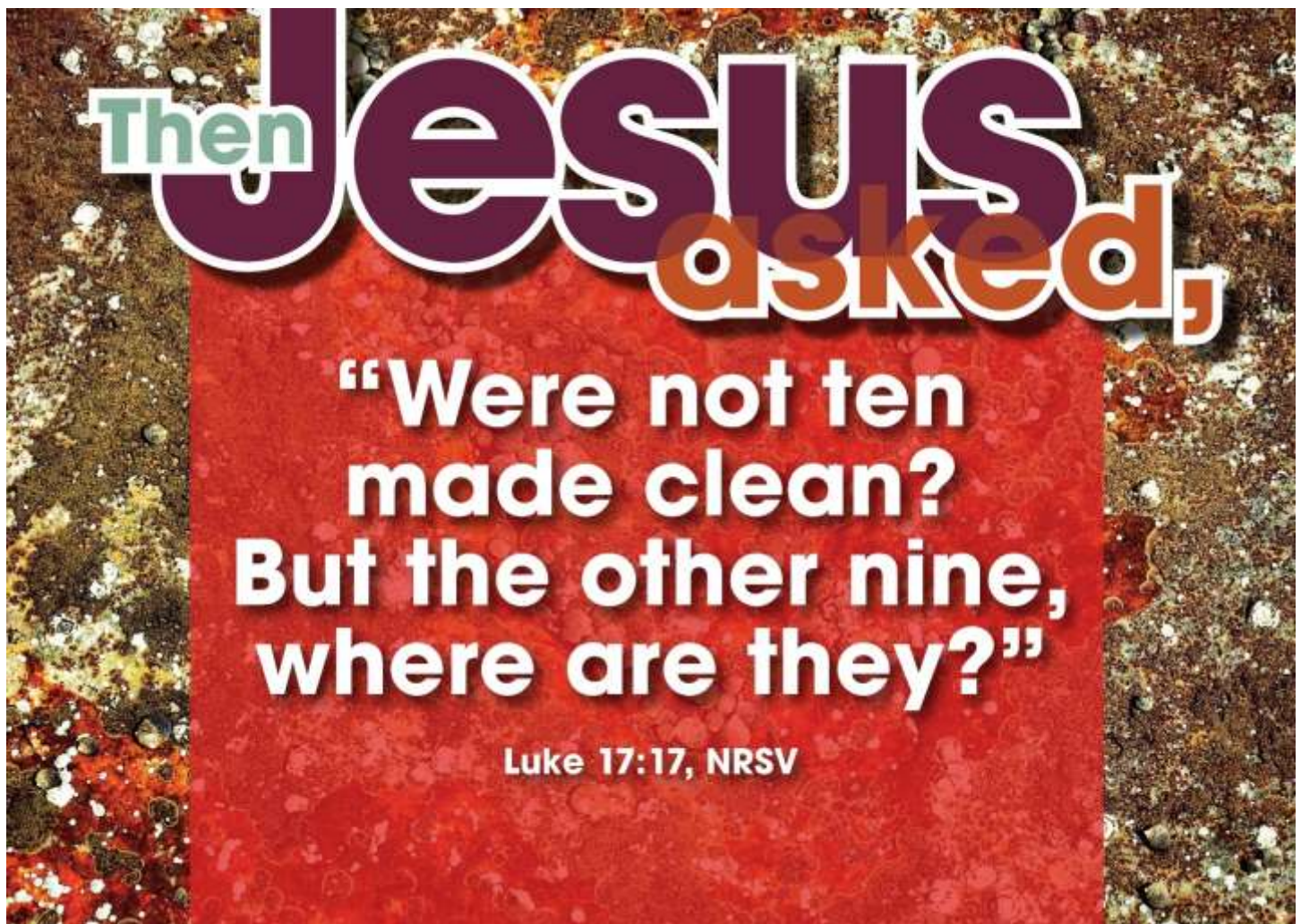
Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

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

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" arr. Michael Burkhardt

LSB 733

*Unison:* 1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our  
*Harmony:* 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Your throne Your  
*Men:* 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or  
*Women:* 4. A thou - sand a - ges in Your sight Are  
*Organ:* 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Soon  
*Unison:* 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our

hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the  
saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is Your  
earth re - ceived its frame, From ev - er - last - ing  
like an eve - ning gone, Short as the watch that  
bears us all a - way; We fly for - got - ten,  
hope for years to come, Still be our guide while

storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
You are God, To end - less years the same.  
ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
as a dream Dies at the op - 'ning day.  
trou - bles last And our e - ter - nal home.



## SERMON

“Taken For Granted?”

Pastor John Larson  
TEXT: Exodus 16:1-4, 17:1-7

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Offering *Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.*

### ✠ 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.**

## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

**People:** 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.

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Splendor and Honor”

arr. K. Lee Scott

LSB 950



1 Splen - dor and hon - or, maj - es - ty and pow - er  
2 Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our re - demp - tion,  
3 To the Al - might - y, throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor,



Are Yours, O Lord God, fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing,  
By whose self - of - f'ring we are made God's peo - ple:  
And to the Sav - ior, Christ our Lamb and Shep - herd,



For by Your bid - ding was the whole cre -  
A priest - ly king - dom, from all tongues and  
Be ad - o - ra - tion, praise, and glo - ry



a - tion Called in - to be - ing.  
na - tions, Called to God's ser - vice.  
giv - en, Now and for - ev - er.

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“Now Thank We All Our God” (Organ)

J.S. Bach

## GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

### 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 “Joyful, Joyful We adore Thee” arr. James Biery *LSB 803*



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

Tune and text: Public domain

## POSTLUDE

“God of Grace”

arr. Paul Manz





Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
His love endures forever. Psalm 107:1

## Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES  
TIMPANIST

Pastor John Larson  
Michael Zehnder  
Kevin Keith



*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*