



**St. Johns Lutheran Church – Hastings, MN**  
**November 23, 2022**

*Charles Dickens said that we are somewhat mixed up here in America. Instead of having just one Thanksgiving Day each year, we should have 364. "Use that one day just for complaining and griping," he said. "Use the other 364 days to thank God each day for the many blessings he has showered upon you."*

## **The History of Thanksgiving**

By most accounts, The American holiday of Thanksgiving traces its origins to Plymouth, Massachusetts. A feast day was held to give thanks for a successful growing season in 1621. Berkeley Plantation in Charles City claims to have hosted the first official Thanksgiving on the banks of the James River in 1619.

Throughout early American history various presidents declared days of thanksgiving to commemorate harvests and victories, at different times of the year. Some were religious in nature; some were secular. *Thanksgiving Day* became solidified as a national holiday by proclamation from President Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

While Thanksgiving Day is a *national holiday* and not a part of the Christian Church year, it's fitting for us to take this national day of thanksgiving to remember God as the true source of all our blessings, the greatest of which is our Savior.

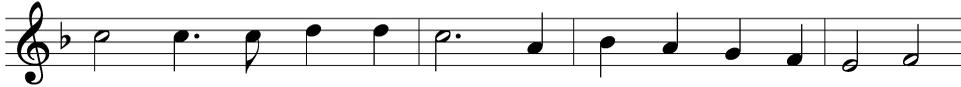
*Silent Prayer before Worship: Almighty God, how richly you have blessed us throughout this last year. Even in times of want, we have the assurance of your love. Now you come to serve us in your Holy Word. Open my ears to hear, my heart to believe, and my lips to praise you for all that you've done for me. Amen.*

# Order of Service

Welcome!

## Opening Praise: Now Thank We All Our God

- vs. 1-2



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,



who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;  
with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us



who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed



with countless gifts of love and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

## Psalm 103

*Thanksgiving for Our Greatest of Blessings through Christ!*

**L** Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
**C** All my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**L** Praise the Lord, O my soul,  
**C** And forget not all his benefits.

**L** He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases;  
**C** He redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love  
and compassion.

**L** He does not treat us as our sins deserve.  
**C** **Or repay us according to our iniquities.**

**L** as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
**C** **So great is his love for those who fear him;**

**L** As far as the east is from the west,  
**C** **So far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

**L** The Lord has established His throne in heaven.  
**C** **And his kingdom rules over all.**

**L** Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.  
**C** **Praise the Lord, O my soul.**

## **Our Song of Praise: Now Thank We All Our God**

*- vs. 3*

**All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.**

## Prayer of the Day

**L** 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## GOD'S WORD

### Reading from God's Word: Deuteronomy 8:10-18

*As the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised Land and enjoy its great wealth, God urged them to remember Him and His gracious hand that provided their wealth.*

<sup>10</sup>When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. <sup>11</sup>Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

<sup>12</sup>Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>15</sup>He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. <sup>16</sup>He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. <sup>17</sup>You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

<sup>18</sup>But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

## Our Thankful Response: Not Unto Us



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry, Lord;  
2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were made;  
3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less years;  
4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry, Lord,



not un - to us but to your name be praise;  
a - maz - ing grace— that sent your Son to save;  
for - giv - ing love— that led us to your truth;  
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be giv'n  
a - maz - ing grace— that robed us in your right - eous - ness  
un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn— from you  
A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and done,



for match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.  
and taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.  
but sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.  
and pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:25-24

*Our same Father who gave us life will give us food to sustain it. Our same Father who takes care of the birds and the grass will take care of us. As we seek his kingdom and his righteousness, he will also give us everything else we need.*

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup>Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

<sup>28</sup>“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup>Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

## Song of Worship: Ten Thousand Reasons



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;  
wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,  
O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.



1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing; —  
2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your  
3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



7 it's time to sing your — song a - gain. What - ev - er may  
name — is — great, and your heart is kind. For all — your  
end — draws — near, and my time has come; 7 still — my



pass, — and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,  
good - ness, I will keep — on — sing - ing—  
soul will sing your praise — un - end - ing—



let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.  
ten thou - sand rea - sons for my heart to find.  
ten thou - sand years and then for - ev - er - more.

## Thanksgiving Meditation on 1 Kings 17:7-16

<sup>7</sup> Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>9</sup> “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” <sup>10</sup> So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” <sup>11</sup> As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

<sup>12</sup>“As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

<sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’ ”

<sup>15</sup>She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. <sup>16</sup>For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

**Message Notes:**

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## Our Thanksgiving Confession

*In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther explained the three articles of the Apostles' Creed in order to expand on what they teach about the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. On this Thanksgiving celebration, we recite his explanation of the First Article as we remember especially the physical blessings God the Father richly gives us.*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that God made me and every creature and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.**

**And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, cattle and all I own, and all that I need to keep my body and life.**

**And I believe that God defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.**

**For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.**

## Thank-Offerings and Personal Reflection on God's Grace and Blessings ~Musical Offering by Adult Choir~

*"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" - Colossians 3:17*

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### Ways to Give Electronically

Choose one of 3 Simple, Safe Options for Offering Thanks



- Text "give" to 651-401-1400
- Go to [www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give](http://www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give)
- Scan the QR code

## Thanksgiving Prayer

- L** We give you thanks, O Lord, for your gracious providence  
**C** Surely you give daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked.
- L** Yet you teach us to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.”  
**C** That we may realize your generosity and receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.
- L** Open our eyes to see your gifts at all times and in all places  
**C** We thank you for all the things you have given us for our bodily welfare:
- L** For food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home,  
**C** For fields and flocks, money and goods, a godly family, good workers, good government, honest leaders and good citizens;
- L** For good weather, peace and order  
**C** For health, a good name, loyal friends and good neighbors.
- L** For the young who see the world through eyes of wonder for their high hopes and candid observations  
**C** We thank you, O God.
- L** For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; patience to bear new crosses and time made precious in its passing:  
**C** We thank you, O God.
- L** For satisfying labor in your vineyard; for the comradeship of those who share our burdens; for wholesome humor and words of encouragement:  
**C** We thank you, O God.
- L** For the strength of your Word in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases and leading us out of the snares of Satan:  
**C** We thank you, O God.

**L** For the washing of regeneration and for the nourishment of your Son's body and blood which is a prelude to the Great Banquet in heaven:

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

**L** For the Bread of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have forgiveness of sins, life and salvation:

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

### The Lord's Prayer

**C** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### Closing Words From God – Habakkuk 3:17-19

<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree does not bud  
and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails

and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen  
and no cattle in the stalls,

<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

<sup>19</sup> The Sovereign LORD is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
he enables me to tread on the heights.

## Blessing of our King

**L** The LORD your God says, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Our Closing Song of Thanksgiving: We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer



1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers, we bless you;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us;



we bless your ho - ly name, — glad prais - es we sing.  
and with your help, O Lord, — our bat - tles we win.  
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Thanksgiving is more than just being “thankful.” It goes beyond eating food and enjoying family. It’s the wonderful love that spills from thankful hearts; hearts that have witnessed God’s own love at the cross, in Jesus. May God bless you with a measure of true thankfulness throughout your week. A blessed thanksgiving to you all from the pastors and their families at St. John’s.

THANKS TO YOU! – An extra-special thanks goes to all of you, the members of St. John’s, who contribute of your time, talents, and treasures to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the world:

The Church Council	Vocalists
The Ladies Groups	Altar Flower providers
Sunday School teachers and subs	Worship Prep team
Musical leaders	Audio/Video experts
Parents of Sunday School Children	Meal makers
Soccer Camp Planners and Coaches	Meal servers
Live Nativity Participators	Door Greeters
Live Nativity Inviters	Money counters
Lawn mowers and weeders	Friend inviters
Ushers and Helpers	Insightful questioners
Church cleaners	Kind encouragers
Vision planners	Hard workers
Coffee Hour providers	Patient listeners
Organists	Prayer Warriors
Accompanists	Generous givers
	... and many, many more.

May the LORD continue to bless us with such gifts as you!

# Take the Next Step

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If this is your first time with us, we're so glad that you took a big step and came to worship. What's your next step?

## Come back next week

Connecting with God at worship is a great way to spend time during your weekend.

## Try "God & Me"

God & Me is the place to learn more about God's word in your life, for both long time-members and beginners who want to learn more about God's love, the Bible, and St. John's. A new session of classes will be starting soon. Connect with Pastor and/or check the box on your Connection Card if you'd like to know more.

## Join a Grow Group

Grow Groups are small groups that get together in person or online to learn about God's Word. It's a safe, comfortable atmosphere to discuss the way God's love intersects our daily lives. If you are interested in joining or starting a Grow Group or Bible Study, mark the box on your Connection Card and we will reach out to you.

## Service Opportunities

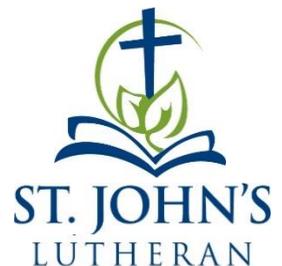
There are multiple areas to volunteer each Sunday to make worship happen well for those in person and online: Guest Services & Hospitality Team, Tech Team, & Worship Prep Team. Are you interested in serving? Mark the box on your Connection Card today!

## Staff

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS