

Happy Thanksgiving

GIVING THANKS TO GOD



**St. John's Lutheran Church –
November 26, 2025**

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.

Welcome to St. John's

Opening Praise: Come, You Thankful People, Come

CW 491



- 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 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
- 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be - gin.
wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens-es purge a - way,
gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, shall pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner 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.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo-rious har-vest home.

Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

The Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11–19

¹¹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer

CW 609



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!

God's Word for our Hearts

Philippians 4:10–20

¹⁰I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I 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. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

¹⁴Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵Moreover, 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; ¹⁶for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸I have received full payment and have more than enough. 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. ¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Now Thank We All Our God

CW 598



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 blessed 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.

Today's Message from our Loving God – Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷“Two things I ask of you, LORD;
do not refuse me before I die:
⁸Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.
⁹Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’
Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.

Message Notes: *Things for me to remember this week...*

After the meditation from Proverbs, remain seated for the confession of faith

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.

Offertory: Praise The Lord, Proclaim His Glory

- sung by the 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

Our offerings are both an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us, and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church's work. Guests need not feel obligated to contribute.

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
- Scan the QR code

Thanksgiving Prayer – Psalm 136

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.

To him who alone does great wonders,
His love endures forever.

Who by his understanding made the heavens,
His love endures forever.

Who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures forever.

Who made the great lights—
His love endures forever.

The sun to govern the day,
His love endures forever.

The moon and stars to govern the night;
His love endures forever.

To the One who remembered us in our low estate,
His love endures forever.

And freed us from our enemies,
His love endures forever.

And who gives food to every creature.
His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His love endures forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

¹⁷Though 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,

¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

¹⁹The 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

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.

Amen.

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

CW 789



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for all the bless - ings
2 Teach me to live that I may dread the grave as lit - tle
3 When in the night I sleep - less lie, my soul with heav'n - ly



of the light. Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, be - neath thine
as my bed. Teach me to die that so I may rise glo - rious
thoughts sup - ply; let no ill dreams dis - turb my rest, no pow'rs of



own al - mighty wings. For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
at the awe - full day. Oh, may my soul on thee re - pose
dark-ness me dis - tress. Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;



the ill that I this day have done, that with the world, my -
and may sweet sleep mine eye - lids close, sleep that shall me more
praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



self, and thee I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
vig - 'rous make to serve my God when I a - wake.
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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
The Ladies Guild
The Circle Groups
Sunday School teachers
Sunday School subs
Music leaders
Parents of Sunday School Children
Soccer Camp Planners and Coaches
Live Nativity Participators
Live Nativity Inviters
Lawn mowers and weeders
Ushers and Helpers
Church cleaners
Vision planners
Coffee Hour providers
Instrumentalists
Organists

Accompanists
Vocalists
Altar Flower providers
Altar Guild
Audio/Video experts
Meal makers
Meal servers
Door Greeters
Money counters
Friend inviters
Insightful questioners
Kind encouragers
Hard workers
Patient listeners
Generous givers
... and many more.

May the LORD continue to bless us with such gifts!

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