

Thanksgiving Eve

November 24, 2022



1812 North Highland Avenue

727-446-5026

Clearwater, Florida 33755

office@GraceCLW.com

Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

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Every gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. When we are nourished with God's bounty in holy communion, when we partake of Jesus' word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so "with thanksgiving." Let us give thanks to God, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. As they bring their offerings, worshipers remember and proclaim God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-9

Paul urges the Christians at Philippi to rejoice, to be thankful, and to dwell on everything worthy of praise.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

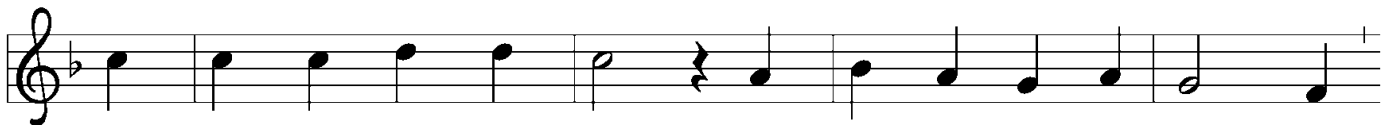
⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now Thank We All Our God (isometric)*

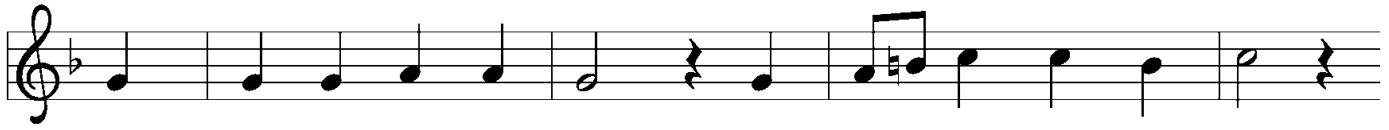
(ELW 840)



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,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in 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 harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We give thanks for the church in every land. Sustain the faithful with your living word. Inspire radical hospitality toward all who are searching, and call us into a more generous way of living. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the earth. Bring forth plentiful harvests and renew our commitment to share abundantly. Preserve the lands and waters that bring nourishment (*local water sources may be named*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for leaders in our communities. Kindle a passion for justice and peace in every national and local elected official. Curb selfish impulses and guide us toward collaborative solutions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who provide for others. Sustain caregivers, social workers, and volunteers in their efforts (*individuals, congregational ministries, or local organizations may be named*). Provide homes, food, employment, and medical care to all who are struggling. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for this congregation and those who plan worship. Guide deacons, pastors, musicians, and lay leaders in their creation of meaningful experiences. Instill in us a sense of joy and wonder when we come to worship you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other petitions may be added.

We give thanks for the faithful who now rest in you (*especially Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant, pastors in North America, whom we commemorate today, and those within our Memorial Garden*). Teach us by their example and bring us with them into your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

(ELW 884)

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line and ends with a double bar line.

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.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Together we have heard God's Word and shared in the Lord's Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Be a blessing to the world.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!