

Enter his gates
with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him;
bless his name!

Psalm 100:4, ESV

A Service of Thanksgiving
November 22 / 23, 2023

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

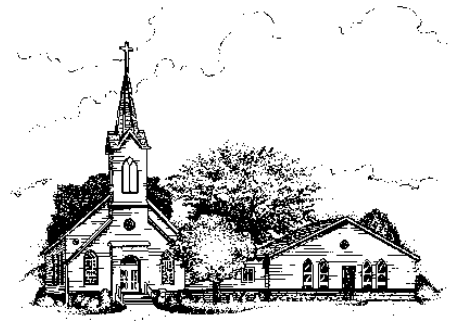
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While our nation sets aside a day of giving thanks every year, the Lord has in mind an entire life of thanksgiving. How might we accomplish that?

Certainly, it comes about as we do *everything* in our life out of service



toward God and out of love for our neighbors. We also set aside time and gather to worship to celebrate the daily goodness of our God as well as his grace in providing all that we need for body and soul. May God bless your worship today and strengthen you in faith to live your lives renewed in thanks and praise to him.

Prayer before Worship: Lord, teach me to count the numerous blessings that you have given to me. Focus my worship today on you. Help me live a life of thankfulness and praise in gratitude and joy for every gift you have given me. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #624:1-4

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen how all that's needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.

What need or grief ever has failed of relief?
Wings of his mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends you.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Psalms of Thanksgiving

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs. Come before him with joyful songs.

**Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will
sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his; we are his
people, the sheep of his pasture.

**I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your
works are wonderful; I know that full well.**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say this: Let them give thanks to the Lord for
his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.

For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to
him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord....

Song of Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #624:5

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your mercies are new every morning, and you graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience all our days; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let them
thank the LORD
for his
steadfast love,
for his
wonderful works
to humankind.
Psalm 107:8

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:18-24

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said:
“Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign Lord, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign Lord, is for a mere human!
²⁰ “What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign Lord. ²¹ For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.
²² “How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. ²³ And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? ²⁴ You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, Lord, have become their God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth #505:1-2

♪ For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night;
hill and vale, and tree and flow’r, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, 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. ⁹ 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth #505:4-5

♪ For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Gospel

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind

him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

⁴¹ “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God #597

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

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.

Sermon

Luke 7:36-50

Forgiven Much....Thankful MUCH!

Confession of Faith

First Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, 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, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all

danger, guarding and protecting 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.

Prayer of the Church

God our Savior, we lift up your hands and hearts to you in prayer, giving thanks for all your blessings.

We give thanks Lord, for you are good. Your mercy endures forever.

We give thanks to you and praise your name for leading us each day, providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, and all we need for body and life.

We give thanks Lord, for you are good. Your mercy endures forever.

We give thanks to you and praise your name for feeding our souls with the Bread of Life, your holy Word: your law to guide and correct us, your gospel to restore and empower us.

We give thanks Lord, for you are good. Your mercy endures forever.

We give thanks to you and praise your name for the special blessings you have given us in the past year. You certainly have opened your gracious hand, and met our needs with abundance.

We give thanks Lord, for you are good. Your mercy endures forever.

We give thanks to you and praise your name for leading us through hardships in this past year. You work even these for our good, and you discipline and train us in your great love.

We give thanks Lord, for you are good. Your mercy endures forever.

Keep your goodness, mercy and love on our hearts and minds daily, that we

remember you as the giver of all our gifts and abilities, and as our only Redeemer and Savior.

We give thanks Lord, for you are good. Your mercy endures forever.

Hear us, Lord, as we give you thanks for your personal blessings to each of us...

Silent prayers

Lord, your mercies are never-failing, and in your grace, you give us life, health, food, clothing, and shelter. Give us thankful hearts, that we always acknowledge you as the giver of every good and perfect gift, and use what you give us wisely, for your glory and for our good; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

Hymn

Ten Thousand Reasons #607



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.

Martin Luther's Evening Prayer (Wednesday evening)

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Martin Luther's Morning Prayer (Thursday morning)

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son,

that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

**Closing Hymns Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #617
 All People That on Earth Do Dwell #601:2 & 4**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
he formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he comes to feed,
the sheep who by his hand were made.

Trust that the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is forever sure.
His faithfulness at all times stood
and shall from age to age endure.

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In Our Prayers Tina Uelmen at Mercy Medical in Oshkosh; Rhea Schmidt at Cedar Lake in West Bend; Patti Richards, recovering at home after surgery for a broken collarbone; Calvin Eichsteadt, home after a lengthy hospitalization at St. Agnes, Fond du Lac; and Shirley Schlice (Bonnie Herman's mother) who recently moved to The Waterford in West Bend.

Organ Dedication Don't forget about our special service this Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. ONLY (no 7:30 a.m. service this Sunday). Sunday School and Bible study will meet as normal. Former member Chris Joch will serve as our guest organist as we formally dedicate our new organ to the service and glory of God.

We thank Barb Olsen (Wednesday) and Bea Pamperin (Thursday) for serving as our organists this Thanksgiving. We also thank Alyce Herman and Keith Herman for serving as our soloists and Anna Bode for the guitar accompaniment.

Coming Schedule The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is a busy one...please remember the following important dates:

- the first Sunday School Christmas practice *next* Saturday from 9 – 10:30 a.m.
- church decorating on December 3rd after late service
- Advent supper (6 p.m.) and Worship service (7 p.m.) on December 6th
- Advent by Candlelight on December 10th (Ladies, please sign up on the bulletin board)

Pick up a December calendar and newsletter so you have all the coming news and announcements. Don't forget the December *Forward in Christ* and a copy of the new *Meditations*, which starts next Sunday.