

"The LORD gave,
and the LORD
has taken away;
blessed be
the name of
the LORD."

Job 1:21



A Divine Service of Thanksgiving and Praise

November 23-24, 2022

Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN

Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN

Member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

Serving Us Today:

Nathan Pfeiffer, pastor

Organist: Grace—Jan Davis / Berea - Steve Kuehne

WELCOME WORSHIPERS! We welcome everyone joining us for our special service of thanksgiving and praise today. It is our prayer that your faith will be strengthened by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word, that you may live lives of thanksgiving knowing what great things God has done for you through Jesus Christ. If you are visiting us today, please sign our guest register, and we invite you to come and join us again!

Pre-Service Meditation: *Psalm 118 in the front of your hymnals*

A Thanksgiving Confession

*(To be read and pondered silently upon entering church
by, Marie C. Turk in "The Lutheran Witness" Nov 14, 1950)*

**Dear Lord, we come our thanks to say For all Thy blessings large and small;
Our many needs Thou didst supply, We can't begin to name them all;
We had not only daily bread, But more, much more: our souls were fed.**

**We thank Thee for the faith that clings To Christ, Thy Son, with power to save,
Who freed us from the curse and gloom Of death and darkness and the grave.
We feel a welling in our breast Of joy that we are truly blest.**

**Accept our thankful praise, dear Lord, And keep us in Thy saving grace,
In storm and tempest be our Guide, And give us at Thy side a place
Where we may ever live with Thee And those who spirits are set free. Amen.**

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~ Opening Prayer by the Pastor ~

BEREA: Sunday School and Adult Choirs of Berea:

Director: Heather Schierenbeck | Piano: Tamar Pfeiffer

*Chorus: Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, oh my soul
I worship Your Holy name*

*The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes -Chorus*

*You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find -Chorus*

*And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still will my soul sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore*

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Hymn: TLH #39 / LSB #790 “Praise to the Lord the Almighty”

~ CALL TO WORSHIP ~

P: We conduct this service of thanksgiving and praise in the name of God the Father who created and preserves us, God the Son who has redeemed us, and God the Holy Spirit who has called us and sanctified us. **C: Amen.**

~ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION ~

P: Dear friends in Christ, aware of God’s providence and grace, let us come before Him to confess our sins and look to Him in repentance and faith for forgiveness:

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, our desires, our words and our actions.

We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Nor have we always given You the thanks and praise that is due Your holy name.

We beg You to have mercy on us, and for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ forgive our wrongs.

Help us to delight in Your will and to walk in Your ways, giving thanks in all circumstances through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore rejoice and give thanks! God for Jesus’ sake has removed your transgressions from you as far as east is from west. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

RESPONSIVE READING from Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

P: What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me?

**C: I will take up the cup of salvation,
And call upon the name of the LORD.**

P: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
C: And will call upon the name of the LORD.

P: I will pay my vows to the LORD
C: Now in the presence of all His people,

P: In the courts of the LORD’s house,
C: In the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

♪ **Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!**

♪ **See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off’ring made
For ev’ry soul of man.**

♪ **To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv’n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav’n.**

LSB Hymn #528 V. 1, 6, 7

P: LET US PRAY - Almighty God, whose mercies are new every morning and whose goodness, though undeserved, still abundantly provides for all our wants of body and soul, grant us, we humbly pray, your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: “Amen.”

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:18-22

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁹ And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD. You have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD! ²⁰ And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! ²¹ Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. ²² Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

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

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and reclined at table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when

she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment,³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet.⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

A Thanksgiving Confession of Faith

from Martin Luther's explanation to the First Article in the Large Catechism

P: Someone might ask, 'What sort of person is God? What does He do? How can one praise or picture or describe Him in a way that will really let people know Him? What do you know about Him?'

ALL: You could say: 'First, my God is the Father who made heaven and earth. I take nothing and no one else as God except Him alone, for there simply is no one else who could have made heaven and earth.'

P: What do you mean by those words?

ALL: What I mean to say and what I believe is that I am a creation of God, that is, He gave me and continuously preserves for me my body, soul, and life,

WOMEN: my bodily members great and small, all my senses, my reason and intellect, and so on,

MEN: also food and drink, clothing, livelihood, wife and child, servants, house and home, and so on.

ALL: Besides this He causes the necessities and comforts of life to be provided for me by everything in creation – the sun, the moon, the stars in the sky, day and night, air, fire, water, the earth and all that it can produce, birds, fish, animals, grains and all manner of produce.

WOMEN: He also gives whatever other physical and temporal blessings there may be, such as good government, peace, and security.

MEN: It follows self-evidently that, since everything that we possess as well as everything else in heaven and on earth is daily given, sustained, and preserved by God,

ALL: therefore we in turn certainly owe it to Him to love, praise, and thank Him without ceasing and, in short, to serve Him wholly and completely, as He requires and enjoins us to do in the Ten Commandments. This is most certainly true.

Hymn: TLH #571 "What Our Father Does is Well"

- 1. What our Father does is well blessed truth His children tell
Tho' He send, for plenty, want, tho' the harvest store be scant
Yet we rest upon His love, seeking better things above.**
- 2. What our Father does is well, shall the wilful heart rebel
If a blessing He withhold in the field or in the fold
Is He not Himself to be all our store eternally**
- 3. What our Father does is well, tho' He sadden hill and dell
Upward yet our praises rise for the strength His Word supplies
He has called us sons of God; can we murmur at His rod**
- 4. What our Father does is well, may the tho't within us dwell
Tho' nor milk nor honey flow in our barren Canaan now
God can save us in our need, God can bless us God can feed.**
- 5. Therefore unto Him we raise hymns of glory, songs of praise
To the Father and the Son and the Spirit Three in One
Honor, might, and glory be now and through eternity.**

Our Thanksgiving Message:

Job 1:20-22 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.²¹ And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

"Thanksgiving with Job"

~ **THANKSGIVING OFFERTORY** ~

P: Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen (Phil 4:6-7)

♪ **Send us Thy Spirit, teach us truth;
Thou Son, O set us free
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways,
To make us one in Thee.**

♪ **Then shall our song united rise
To Thine eternal throne,
Where with the Father evermore
And Spirit Thou art one.**

Tune: LSB #528 / Text: LSB #569:5-6 - Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76
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~ **PRESENTATION OF THE THANK OFFERING & PRAYER** ~

P: O Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank You for giving us every needful blessing, both for this life and for that which is to come. It is Your gracious providence that has preserved and sustained us all our lives to this day.

C: **In times of sickness You have sustained us.**

P: You mended our hearts when we were crushed with grief.

C: **You helped us endure our losses and forget what was unpleasant.**

P: In all the emergencies which faced us, You were there to help us;

C: **never once were we forsaken.**

P: Gracious God, when we consider the abundance of food produced and consumed in our nation,

C: **the advanced medical services available to us,**

P: the high standard of living to which we have become accustomed, and the freedom from oppression and tyranny that we enjoy,

C: **we must confess that we are truly living in a blessed land.**

P: And still, these are neither the sum total of your blessings,

C: **nor even the most important.**

P: Far greater than these are Your benefits for our souls. You have loved us with an everlasting love through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Through Him all our sins find perfect forgiveness.**

P: Through Him our troubled souls find rest

C: **and our hearts are filled with joy and peace.**

P: Lord, You even chose us from eternity to be Your own,

C: **and through the Holy Spirit called us to faith through the gospel.**

P: Oh, may we never fail to see You as our merciful God, our Savior, and our Sanctifier.

C: **May we never fail to acknowledge that all blessings finally flow through You.**

P: *Forgive our many sins, and do not on their account withhold Your love from us.*

C: **We pray in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ:**

~ **THE LORD'S PRAYER** ~

Sung responsive set to the melody of LSB hymn #920
From "The Lutheran Witness," of Nov 5, 1935 - Author Unknown

P: Our Father, who art in heaven; Hallowed by Thy name;

ALL: ♪ **Father who art in heav'n, we pray
Teach us to bless Thy name each day;
Teach us to sing Thy wondrous praise,
Teach us Thanksgiving songs to raise.**

P: Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,

ALL: ♪ **O let Thy glorious kingdom come,
Let Thine almighty will be done,
Now work Thy grace within each heart,
Keep us from sin and Satan's dart.**

P: Give us this day our daily bread

ALL: ♪ **Give us this day our daily bread,
And let us all be clothed and fed.
Nourish the body and the soul;
Keep us within the Christian fold.**

P: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

ALL: ♪ **Forgive us all our sins today,
Take hatred, pride, and guilt away.
As Thou forgiv'st, may we forgive;
Loving our neighbor, may we live.**

P: 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.

ALL: ♪ **O guard us in temptation's hour;
Deliver us, and Thine the power,
The kingdom and the glory be,
O God, now and eternally. AMEN.**

P: Benediction

ALL: (sung) **Amen** (3x)

Closing Hymn: WS #785 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

A Thanksgiving Meal Prayer (TLH #659):

*Feed Thy children, God most holy, Comfort sinners poor and lowly;
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!
As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render. Amen.*