



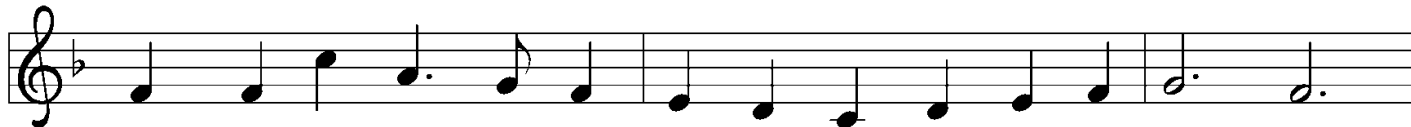
# Tuesday, November 26, 2024

## Thanksgiving Service

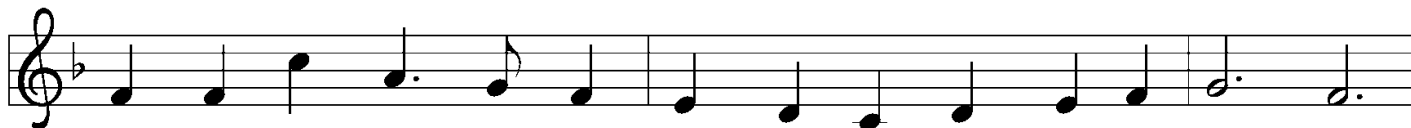
### **Introduction**

Today's readings reflect two of the strains that go into the celebration of a national day of thanksgiving: gratitude for abundant harvest (Joel) and civic prayer for a peaceable common life (1 Timothy). The core meaning of Thanksgiving for many of us—a home feast for extended family and friends—is not reflected in the readings; but it is reflected weekly in the church's meal of thanksgiving (eucharist). What we wish for both these thanksgiving meals is that they will go deeper than celebration of one another and our own blessings, to recognize in our true Host one who wants everyone brought to the table.

## Gathering Hymn..... "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"



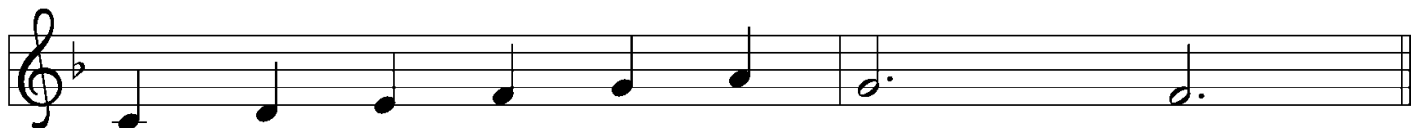
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

## **Thanksgiving Litany**

Generous God, for the abundance of your blessings to us day by day and year by year,

**We give you our thanks.**

For the simple pleasures of life: for garden harvests,  
coffee conversation, and familiar surroundings,  
For health and strength to appreciate the wonder of life,  
For needs met and desires fulfilled,

**We give you our thanks.**

For foods distributed to nourish body and spirit,  
For homes which supply shelter, which nurture  
Order and beauty, and offer hospitality,

**We give you our thanks.**

With hearts that forgive as freely as you have forgiven,  
With enthusiasm of spirit for the gift of life,  
With music which declares your everlasting goodness,  
With prayers for mutual understanding and peace,

**we worship you with joy.**

With creative pursuits which contribute to our God-given talents,  
With words which honor you as Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit,  
With time volunteered and dedicated to service in church and community,  
With years committed to extending the love of Jesus Christ,

**we give you our joy.**

With gifts of money which reach farther than we can manage ourselves,  
With deeds done in service of neighbor and stranger,  
With holy days set apart to celebrate your goodness and grace,  
With family and friends distant and nearby,

**We worship you, God, with grateful hearts and joyful spirit.**

**Amen.**

## **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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading: Joel 2:21-27**

*The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when God will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.*

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers. We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.*

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald

and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

**Choral Anthem.....** "Thanksgiving Medley" *arr. Berry and Adams*

**Gospel: Matthew 6:25-33**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.*

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

## Sermon Song..... "For the Fruit of All Creation"



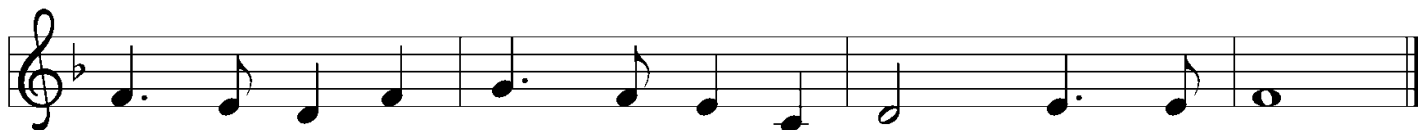
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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## **The Apostles' Creed**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

**Amen**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors,  
the church, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

We praise you, O Lord, for you alone are God. Give to your church a holy  
curiosity to ask questions and build bridges across difference. Sustain  
ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. On this week of Thanksgiving,  
commit us to respectful and faithful dialogue with Indigenous neighbors  
who find this day difficult. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for green pastures and abundant harvests. Feed us with the  
fruit of the earth, the work of human hands. Bless those who labor in fields  
and factories for the food that nourishes and strengthens us. Lord in your  
mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for leaders who seek justice and equity for all. For all elected officials, we pray. Guide them to prioritize the common good over narrow individualism. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for your tender care. Be present with those who weep this day (*especially Charlie, Eric, Barbara, Lizzy, Christi, Angelika, Jenna, Dave, Joy, Frank, Carol, Vicki, Tyler, Dick, Kristin, Tom, Michael, Gabriele, Merle, Prentice, Rebecca, Bonnie, Kathie, Ruth, Bob, Michael, Peter, Don, Suzanne, Del, Jeff, Eric and Pastor Michael*). Lead them through their sorrow and tears into shouts of joy. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for our community of faith. You have brought us this far by faith. In times of worry and uncertainty, renew our trust in your abundance. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for your saints who now feast at your eternal banquet. Sustain us by their faithful lives of gratitude until that day when we join them at your table. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.  
**Amen.**



## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **Invitation to Communion**

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

## **Distribution**

*We will be using the intinction method for distribution. You will be handed bread and asked to dip the bread in the chalice. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available. Please make your way forward by the center aisle, returning down the side. If mobility is a problem for you, please notify an usher and you will be served at your seat.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

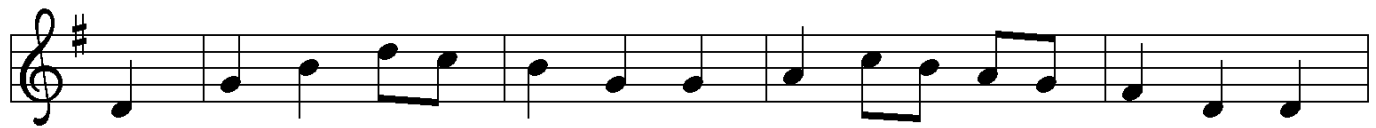
**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Sending Hymn..... "Let All Things Now Living"



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



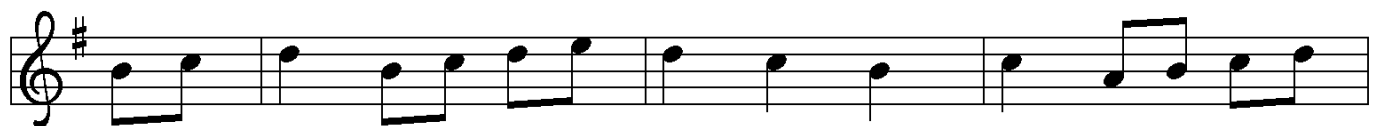
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
 God in the high - est. ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.  
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
 Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**