

# THANKSGIVING

November 22nd, 2023



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
St. Louis, MO

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Hymn ----- Praise to God, Immortal Praise**

CW 612

1. Praise to God, immortal praise, For the love that crowns our days.  
Bounteous Source of ev'ry joy, Let your praise our tongues employ.  
All to you, our God, we owe, Source whence all our blessings flow.
2. All the plenty summer pours, Autumn's rich, o'erflowing stores,  
Flocks that whiten all the plain, Yellow sheaves of ripened grain -  
Lord, for these our souls shall raise Grateful vows and solemn praise.
3. Peace, prosperity, and health, Private bliss and public wealth,  
Knowledge with its gladd'ning streams, True religion's holier beams-  
Lord, for these our souls shall raise Grateful vows and solemn praise.
4. As your prosp'ring hand has blest, May we give you of our best  
And by deeds of kindly love For your mercies grateful prove,  
Singing thus through all our days: "Praise to God, immortal praise."

*Stand.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

*Psalm 106:1-3*

C: for his mercy endures forever.

M: Who can tell about the mighty deeds of the LORD?

C: Who can cause all his praise to be heard?

M: Blessed are those who defend justice,

C: who do what is right all the time.

M: God has made us and every good gift is from him. Yet we have not done what is right. We have disobeyed him. We have not been thankful for the things he has given us. We have been proud and selfish with our possessions. We have coveted things that are not ours. Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

*Forgive Us, Lord*

*CW 482*

1. For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,  
 3. For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,  
 For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,  
 For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds.  
 For songs of praise for world - ly wealth - i - ness,  
 For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways,  
 While of your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware.  
 Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs.

M: Give thanks to the Lord. He has kept his promises and out of his great love he has not punished us as our sins deserve. God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The congregation sings stanzas 2 and 4 of "Forgive Us, Lord"*

C: 2. Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,  
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,  
For Christ, your Son, and for each human face  
That shows your message ever new and near.

4. Open our eyes to see your love's intent,  
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.  
Let thankful days in loving labor spent  
Reflect the truly Christ-like life and light.

*Prayer of the Day*

M: 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.

C: Amen.

*Be seated.*

THE WORD

**First Lesson ----- Deuteronomy 8:10-18**

Then you will eat, and you will be filled, and you will praise the LORD your God for the good

land that he has given you. Be very careful so that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and ordinances and his statutes that I am commanding you today. When you eat and are satisfied, and you build nice houses and move into them, and your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold increase, and everything that you have prospers, watch out so that your heart does not become arrogant and forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, where you were slaves. Do not forget the LORD, who led you in the great and terrifying wilderness, where there were venomous snakes and scorpions, where the

thirsty ground had no water, but the LORD made water come out of a flint rock for you. Do not forget the LORD, who in the wilderness fed you manna, which your fathers had not known before, to humble you and to test you so that it would be good for you later on.

You might say in your heart, “My ability and the power of my hand have earned this wealth for me.” But then you are to remember that the LORD your God is the one who gives you the ability to produce wealth, to confirm his covenant that he promised to your fathers with an oath, as he does to this day.

**Anthem ----- A Canon of Thanks**  
Choir

**Second Lesson ----- Philippians 4:10–20**

I rejoice greatly in the Lord now that you have revived your concern for me once again. Actually, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I lack anything; in fact, I have learned to be content in any circumstances in which I find myself. I know what it is to live in humble circumstances, and I know what it is to have more than enough. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, while being full or hungry, while having plenty or not enough. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. Nevertheless, you did well by becoming partners with me in my affliction.

You Philippians know that in the beginning

of your experience with the gospel, when I left Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. Even while I was in Thessalonica, you sent help more than once for my needs. Not that I am seeking a gift, but I am seeking the fruit that adds to your account. I have been paid in full, and I have more than enough. I am fully supplied since I’ve received from Epaphroditus the things that came from you, a sweet-smelling fragrance, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God will fully supply your every need, according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever! Amen.

**Verse of the Day ----- Psalm 136:1**

M: Alleluia. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. For his mercy endures forever.

C: Alleluia!

*Stand.*

**Gospel ----- Luke 17:11-19**

On another occasion, as Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee. When he entered a certain village, ten lepers met him. Standing at a distance, they called out loudly, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they went away they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, thanking him. And he was a Samaritan. Jesus responded, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go your way. Your faith has saved you."

*After the Gospel:*

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

*Be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day ----- Come, You Thankful People, Come**

CW 613

1. Come, you thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest-home.  
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin.  
God our maker shall provide For our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest-home.

2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and weeds together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.
3. For the Lord our God shall come And shall take his harvest home,  
From his field shall in that day All offenses purge away,  
Give his angels charge at last In the fire the weeds to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.
4. Even so, Lord, quickly come To your final harvest-home;  
Gather all your people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, In your garner to abide.  
Come with all your angels, come; Raise the glorious harvest-home.

**Sermon ----- Deuteronomy 8:10-18**

*God Loves to be Remembered with Thanks*

*Stand.*

*Luther's Explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed*

C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, 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, property 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.

*Offering*

Online giving option:  
[mluther.org/give](http://mluther.org/give)



*Offerings support the spread  
of the Gospel here and around the world.*

*Prayer of the Church*

M: Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

C: **Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**

M: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

C: **Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.**

M: Thank you for our cities and countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

C: **Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.**

M: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

C: **Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

*Silent prayer.*



M: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

*Lord's Prayer*

C: 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.

*Be seated.*

**Hymn ----- We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer**

CW 609

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator!  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring:  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you.  
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been;  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer;  
To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.  
Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us.  
To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!

*Stand.*

*Evening Prayer*

M: O God our Father, by your mercy and might, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection, we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender.

C: **Amen.**

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

**Hymn ----- Now Thank We All Our God**

CW 610

1. 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 mother's arms Has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.
2. 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.
3. 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.

