

A Thanksgiving Eve Service November 23, 2022

Thank you, Lord ...

In the Fall of 1863 President Lincoln initiated the annual observance of the holiday we call Thanksgiving. It was a time when the harvest was not plentiful, when peace seemed distant. The Civil War alerted America to the fragile nature of everyday blessings.

In the midst of the turmoil and bloodshed, Lincoln called for a National Day of Prayer and thanksgiving. Though the hour was dark, Americans could still be called back to the simple faith of their childhood. But it was not until eight decades later, in the fall of 1943, that President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed Thanksgiving to a waiting America. This time the people were unified, backing their sons and daughters on another war front. On that day millions prayed for an end to the tyrannies of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

We as a country have a long history of acknowledging the One who is the giver of all good things. At the very beginning of our country, the Declaration of Independence appealed to the Creator to justify our existence as a nation. We Christians know that our Creator is also our Redeemer and Sanctifier, and He is the One who deserves our praise and thanks today: the triune God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So, along with millions of other Christians across our nation, we give thanks to our Lord this Thanksgiving. (CPR Vol. 5, Part 4, p. 58)

The Opening Hymn: LSB 895, "Now Thank We All our God"

1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa-ther now be giv-en,
Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re-joic-es;
With ev-er joy-ful hearts And bless-ed peace to cheer us,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high-est heav-en,
Who from our moth-ers' arms Has blest us on our way
And keep us in His 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 ills In this world and the next!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev-er-more.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Thank you, Lord ... "For Your Preservation"

A Hymn: LSB 789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
 2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise

liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
 neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
 guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -

or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bloss - om and wood.
 with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84

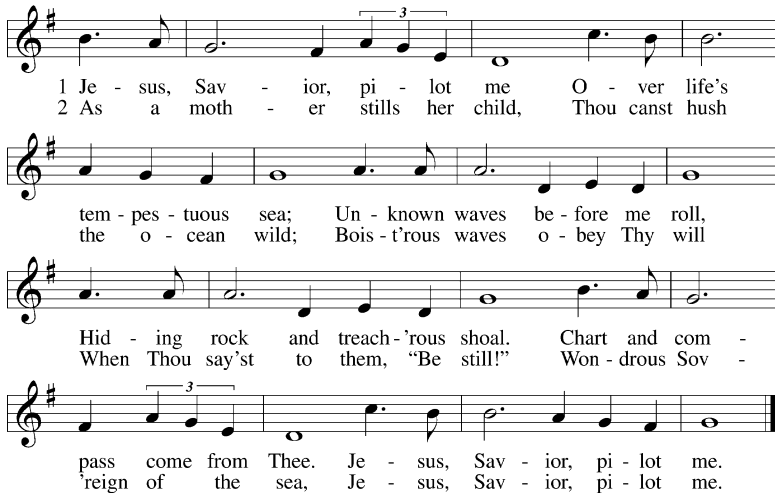
Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.

Text: © 1987 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553

Tune: Public domain

Thank you, Lord ... "For Your Protection"

A Hymn: LSB 715 "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"



1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me O - ver life's
 2 As a moth - er stills her child, Thou canst hush

tem - pes - tuous sea; Un - known waves be - fore me roll,
 the o - cean wild; Bois - t'rous waves o - bey Thy will

Hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal. Chart and com -
 When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!" Won - drous Sov -

pass come from Thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-88

Tune: John E. Gould, 1822-75

Text and tune: Public domain

Thank you, Lord ... "For Your Mercy"

A Hymn: LSB 700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and
heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy
hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,
Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in
bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our
Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87
Text and tune: Public domain

Thank you, Lord ... "For Your Sacrifice"

A Hymn: LSB 527, "O Savior, Precious Savior"

1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, Whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, Who won - drous - ly hast wrought
O name of might and fa - vor, All oth - er names a - bove,
Thy - self the rev - e - la - tion Of love be - yond our thought,



We wor-ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 We wor-ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;



We praise Thee and con-fess Thee, Our ho-ly Lord and King.
 We praise Thee and con-fess Thee, Our gra-cious Lord and King.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79
 Tune: Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929
 Text and tune: Public domain

Thank you, Lord ... "For Your Guidance & Strength"

A Hymn LSB 784, "Take My Life and Let It Be"



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se-crat-ed,
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im-pulse
 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on-ly
 4 Take my sil-ver and my gold, Not a mite would



Lord, to Thee; Take my mo-ments and my days, Let them
 of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and
 for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with
 I with-hold; Take my in-tel-lect and use Ev-'ry



flow in cease-less praise, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
 beau-ti-ful for Thee, Swift and beau-ti-ful for Thee.
 mes-sag-es from Thee, Filled with mes-sag-es from Thee.
 pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev-'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,
 It shall be Thy royal throne,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
 At Thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be

Ever, only, all for Thee, Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79
Tune: Henri A. C. Malan, 1787–1864
Text and tune: Public domain

Thank you, Lord ... "For Your Saving Power"

A Hymn: LSB 617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (st. 2): Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553
Tune: Public domain

Thank you, Lord ... "For the Hope of Heaven"

A Hymn: LSB 672 "Jerusalem the Golden"

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
△ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!

The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!

We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there;
The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest

The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

We thank you, Lord ... "With Our Gifts of Love"

Offering

Hymn: LSB 781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89
Text and tune: Public domain

We thank you, Lord ... "With Our Prayers"

A Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

Confession of Sins

LSB 292

C: Pastor, please hear my confession and pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will.

P: Proceed.

C: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.

Absolution

LSB 292

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

C: Yes.

P: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

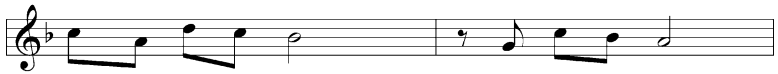
C: Amen.

The Words of Institution

Hymn: LSB 629 "What Is This Bread"



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes!
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am



ris - en	from	the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	He	should	Un -	der	the	rod?
Word	and	prom -	ise	In	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be -	lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	His



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946
 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951
 Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553

The Distribution

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Benedicamus

LSB 252

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the \dagger Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 893 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, Sing songs of love and praise;
 2 God makes the clouds rain good - ness, The des - erts bloom and spring,
 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar The gifts His good - ness gave,

With joy - ful hearts and voic - es Your al - le - lu - ias raise.
 The hills leap up in glad - ness, The val - leys laugh and sing.
 The gold - en sheaves of har - vest, The souls Christ died to save.

By Him the roll - ing sea - sons In fruit - ful or - der move;
 God fills them with His full - ness, All things with large in - crease;
 Your hearts lay down be - fore Him When at His feet you fall,

Sing to the Lord of har - vest A joy - ous song of love.
 He crowns the year with bless - ing, With plen - ty and with peace.
 And with your lives a - dore Him Who gave His life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–75, att.
 Tune: Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Hymns and portion s of the liturgy are from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

A Statement on Holy Communion

We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to speak to the Pastor before attending the Lord's Supper. Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine, but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life ...

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

**St. James Lutheran Church
2040 Oakwood Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505**

+++++

Office: 616-363-7718

Email: office@stjamesgr.com

Website: www.stjamesgr.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjamesgr

Online Giving: www.stjamesgr.com/give.

+++++

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com