

**WELCOME TO GETHSEMANE!**

**AS WE GATHER: WHY CHRISTIANS GIVE THANKS**

*A Day of National Thanksgiving is an honored tradition in this nation. But thankfulness to God is something that transcends national borders and the boundaries of time. God's people are always thankful people, for they know what great things He has done and continues to do for them. In Martin Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Creed, he states that in response to God's great gifts, it is the Christian's "duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him." Our worship is one way through which we carry out that joyful duty.*

**LSB 892 COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME**

sts. 1–2, 4

- 1     Come, ye thankful people, come;  
      Raise the song of harvest home,  
      All be safely gathered in  
      Ere the winter storms begin.  
      God, our Maker, doth 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 tares 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.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come  
To Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified,  
In Thy garner to abide:  
Come, with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home.

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### *INVOCATION*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*OPENING SENTENCES* Psalm 95:1–2; 100:4–5; 147:1, 7

**P** Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**C** **Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**

**P** Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

**C** **Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!**

**P** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

**C** **For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.**

## *CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION*

**P** I will go to the altar of God,

**C** to God my exceeding joy.

**P** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**C** Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.

**C** Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of all things, we confess that we are indeed sinful. We have broken our fellowship with You and have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We have not lived lives that are continuing expressions of gratitude. We do repent and are truly sorry for all of our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Lord and the source of our salvation.

**Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we live faithfully and with full thankfulness until that time when we rejoice together in Your eternal presence.**

**P** God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant 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. The Lord keep you steadfast in the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, grant you a spirit of ongoing thankfulness, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**LSB 895 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD**

sts. 1, 3

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 mothers' arms,  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

△ 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.

## *PRAYER*

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and with the whole Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. Grant that we with thankful hearts receive Your great mercies and express our gratitude, not only with our lips but also in our lives as we give ourselves to Your service and walk before You in holiness and righteousness all our days. Give us faith that works in love, hope that never disappoints, kindness that never fails, confidence in You that never wavers, patience that does not grow weary, and courage always ready to confess Christ, that we live in Your mercy and die in Your peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## *CATECHISM*

**P** Confessing faith and expressing thanks are completely linked together. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther underscored the theme of thankfulness in his explanation of the First Article of the Creed, which focuses on God the Creator. Together we say:

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**L** What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

**C** For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

**L** He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

**C** For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

**L** He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.

**C** For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

**This is most certainly true.**

## + WORD +

### *EPISTLE READING*

1 Thessalonians 5:15–24

<sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### *HOLY GOSPEL*

John 12:1–8

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took about a pint<sup>[a]</sup> of pure nard, an expensive perfume;

she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, <sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.<sup>[b]</sup>" <sup>6</sup> He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

<sup>7</sup> "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you,<sup>[c]</sup> but you will not always have me."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*HYMN: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS HWC 563, VV. 1-2*

1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done. [Refrain]

Refrain:

**Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.**



2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]

Refrain:

**Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.**

*SERMON: The Fragrance of Thankfulness*

*APOSTLES' CREED*

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

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

*OUR PRAYERS*

*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.**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

*PREFACE*

**☩ The Lord be with you.**

**☩ And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### *PROPER PREFACE*

**P** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, our gracious heavenly Father, for You have created and preserved us and have given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. Grant us the gifts of Your Spirit in all of our lives. Grant that we now receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast that is to come in the fellowship of Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### *THE WORDS OF OUR LORD*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: **HAVE MERCY ON ME**

*by Andy Parks*

- 1 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. [Refrain]

**Refrain:**

**Lord have mercy,  
Christ have mercy,  
Lord have mercy on me.  
Lord have mercy,  
Christ have mercy,  
Have mercy on me.**

- 2 Lamb of God I'm asking You to take away my sin.  
I confess that I've done wrong I need Your help again.  
[Refrain]
- 3 The precious blood of Jesus Christ cleanses me from sin.  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ cleanses me from sin.  
[Refrain]

**BENEDICTION**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN:*

***FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH***    *HWC 560, VERSES 1, 3, 4*

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies. [Refrain]

**Refrain:**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

3 For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth, and friends above;  
For all gentle thoughts and mild. [Refrain]

4 For Thy church that evermore,  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore,  
Her pure sacrifice of love. [Refrain]

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