

# Triune Lutheran Church



*Day of Thanksgiving*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## CONFESSiON & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>†</sup> one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
we confess that we are not faithful in using your gifts.  
We forget the least of our siblings.  
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.  
We are infected by sin  
that divides your beloved community.  
Open our hearts to your coming,  
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,  
open our hands to serve your creation.

**Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through <sup>†</sup> Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.

**Amen.**

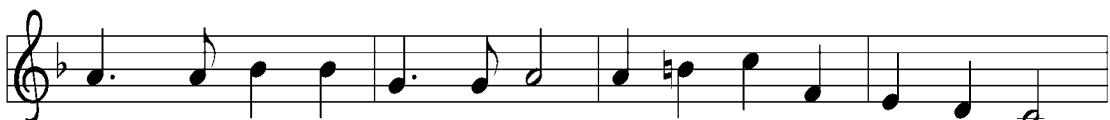
# GATHERING HYMN

## “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ELW 693



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. 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

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. <sup>10</sup>You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

<sup>11</sup>Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup>When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, <sup>16</sup>and fed you in the wilderness with manna

that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. <sup>17</sup>Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” <sup>18</sup>But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 65

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
    to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>To you, the one who answers prayer,  
    to you all flesh shall come.

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are,  
    but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts  
to dwell there!  
    They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the  
holiness of your temple.

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O  
God of our salvation,  
    O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far  
away.

<sup>6</sup>You make firm the mountains by your power;  
    you are girded about with might.

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.  
<sup>8</sup>Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at  
your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.  
<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it  
very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.  
<sup>10</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its  
increase.  
<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.  
<sup>12</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.  
<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the  
valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

## SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also  
reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also  
reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up  
your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God  
loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with  
every blessing in abundance, so that by always having  
enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every  
good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;

his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

Luke 17:11-19

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made

clean? But the other nine, where are they? <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

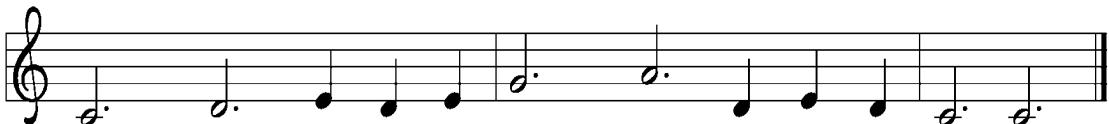
ELW 689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made 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 -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all the ministries of your church. We give thanks for the work you have accomplished through your people, and we pray for your continued blessings in our ministry together as your Triune family. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bountiful God, you feed us through the richness of the land, water, sunlight, and ample crops. Bless all those who cultivate the land to bring forth its bounty, especially farmers and migrant workers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you shape our lives by your providence. Align our purposes with your own, that all our undertakings might bring you glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you open our hearts in compassion for one another. We give you thanks for the care and healing received through the hands and feet of your servants. Continue to watch over your beloved Bev Deitrick, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Cathy Gallagher, Matthew Loede, Donna Matter, George Tomaselli, Gerry Praizner and all those we name in our hearts now...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hospitable God, in this time of thanksgiving, steer us from passive receiving to active response, from old quarrels to reconciliation, and from overconsumption to true gratitude. When we are separated from loved ones, embrace us with your care. Keep gatherings safe. Even in our reduced celebrations, give us voices to offer thanks to you for your perpetual blessings. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the love and care we have received from saints who have gone before us. By their example, enrich the generosity of our witness to others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Glory to you, O God, for your creative Word:  
making and mending all things,  
evoking the cosmic hymn of praise,  
and singing a love-song for your beloved:  
your vineyard, your flock, your people.

Blessed are you for your liberating Word:  
speaking through Moses and the prophets,  
encountered in the Gospels,  
and proclaimed in the assembly:  
your freedom, forgiveness, and life for the world.

Holy are you, O God, for your living Word:  
among us wherever we gather,  
welcoming everyone to your feast,  
and, with grace and generosity,  
bringing to earth the kingdom of heaven.

Continue to clothe us in you as the Holy Spirit,  
flowing from the Crucified and Risen One,  
and keep us awake to your presence  
in the people and places you call us to serve.  
Glory, praise, and blessing are yours, Holy God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

## BLESSING

May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,  
who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, <sup>†</sup> Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

ELW 694



1 Sing to the Lord of harvest your songs of love and praise;  
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - 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 harvest a joy - ous song of love.  
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.  
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613

# DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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Ministers: ***All People***  
Pastor: ***Brad Ross***  
Organist: ***Edith Schatt***  
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

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## *At the Table Together*

Old recipes are precious things. They give instructions about how to prepare a dish, but they are so much more. They are filled with memories. They connect families as they are passed from one generation to the next. They bring events and people from long ago right into the present.

I am looking at a recipe card that has that effect on me. It's my mother's recipe for stuffing for turkey. It's written in her neat hand—a skill I never mastered. It's a basic recipe, just bread and butter and onions and celery and poultry seasoning. I don't even have to read it now when I make stuffing, but I like to look at it because it puts me right back into Thanksgivings past.

Thanksgiving in our family was an *event*. The Eatons have been gathering for Thanksgiving dinner for nearly 70 years. We traded off between our house and my aunt and uncle's home. When it was our turn we got up early and started cooking.

Out came the recipes and equipment. There were no food processors in those days. We had a cast iron food grinder that clamped on to the edge of the kitchen table. It was kept in its own special box. It only made an appearance once a year and its emergence signaled that Thanksgiving had arrived. Grinding the celery was no problem. Onions were another story. My brothers and I spelled each other at turning the crank until we were overcome by the fumes.

My parents and my aunt and uncle established this tradition shortly after World War II. We have always had three and sometimes four generations present. A lot has gone on in our family and in the world these past decades. Marriages, children, moves, deaths, war, recession, elections, the '60s. We are a lively bunch and none of us lacks an opinion or the ability to express it. Conversations were spirited and sometimes heated. My father and my uncle served in the army during World War II. My older brother and older male cousins didn't support the Vietnam War. We belong to different political parties. We are Lutheran and Catholic and members of the Unification Church and unchurched. We are liberal and conservative.

But no matter what, when my mother or my aunt announced, "Supper's ready," we all came to the table together. We were family, we shared our lives, we loved each other.

A lot is going on in our church and in the world right now. We are a changing church, which brings its own tension. We live in a wired world where news is instantaneous and continuous. We don't agree on everything. We belong to different political parties. We have varied ethnicities. We're liberal and conservative and everything in between. We're in an "either/or" world. And we are contending with cultural forces that exacerbate division. But by the tender love of God, by this ceaseless pursuit of the Spirit, we are members of the body of Christ. We are family. We share our lives. We love each other.

Here is another simple recipe: flour, water, wine, the body and blood of Jesus. A meal of healing, forgiveness and thanksgiving. No matter what, when our Lord tenderly and urgently invites, "Supper's ready," we all come to the table. There in our common brokenness we meet each other in Christ.



*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton  
(originally appeared in Living Lutheran, November, 2020)*