



Thanksgiving Eve
November 27, 2024
7:00 pm

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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Amanda Gentzel

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his
family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into
freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the
Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



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

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day**

AM: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Joel 2:21-27

Mir Buresh-Peterson

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.

- ²¹ Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!
- ²² 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.
- ²³ 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.

²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126 (prayed responsively) Mir Buresh-Peterson

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. (Ps. 126:3)

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue
with shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done
great things for them."**

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,**

like the watercourses of the Negeb.

⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Mir Buresh-Peterson

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.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.⁷ 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation (Unison)**

ELW p. 142

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Pastor Larry Kemp

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.

[Jesus said,] ²⁵ “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? ²⁶ 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? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ 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? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for

the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Larry Kemp

***Hymn of the Day:**

#870

We Praise You, O God



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963

Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

***The Apostles' Creed** (in unison)

**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 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 the People of God**

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for
the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Pause for silence. At each petition:

P: Merciful God,
C: **Receive our prayer.**

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

C: **Amen**

***The Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*(As God has brought us peace through Jesus Christ, we now turn to one another and share the same gift of peace, saying to one another: "**Peace be with you.**" and shaking hands as one is comfortable in doing so.)*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

This evening's offering is received on the plate on the table in the center aisle in the back of the sanctuary.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

***Dialogue**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **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 our thanks and praise.**

***The Proper Preface**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and
praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer** (in unison)

**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**

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly is seated.

The Holy Supper

The Distribution of Holy Communion

Please come forward when invited by the Pastor. Empty cups (for wine) will be in the trays located by the front pew. The Communion Assistant will fill your cup with wine. Gluten-free wafers and cups filled with juice are in the center of the tray. The Pastor will offer the bread. Children who haven't received their first Communion, may come forward with hands folded to receive a blessing by the Pastor. Return to your pew by the side aisle. Place your empty cups in the container at the end of the front pew.

Communion Song

Amanda Gentzel

***The Post Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in God's grace.

C: **Amen.**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least
of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous
hearts
as we meet you on the way.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
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 this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in 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 harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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A special thank you to the Kaelin family for their generous donation of fall sanctuary decorations. These have been given by Ellen, Curt, Jennifer, Matthew and Abby to the glory of God and in loving memory of Donald Kaelin.

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