

# THANKSGIVING EVE VESPERS

22 November 2017

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH (Missouri Synod)**

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*Thus God gives me bread and water, not in order that I may eat and drink like a horse or a mule, which have no understanding (Ps. 32.9), but that from this physical gift I may gain a knowledge of God and may encourage and comfort myself with it in other needs too. (Luther, AE, 3, 149)*

**Pre-service Prayers** (Hymnal pp. 4; 102-109; 118; 170)

*[The congregation stands to face the processional crucifix at it enters]*

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Confession And Absolution

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

[Psalm 124.8]

P: Since we are assembled to hear God's Word and to call upon Him in prayer, let us think of our unworthiness, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and realize also that by our own strength we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. Therefore we take refuge in His infinite mercy, seeking and imploring His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and say: God be merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

**All: May God almighty have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to life everlasting. Amen.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto you, and 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.**

Hymn #574 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

## Opening Versicles:

P: O Lord, open my lips. **C: And my mouth shall declare Your praise.**

P: Hasten to save me, O God. **C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

## Psalmody: (Psalm 67)

P: Cause Your Face to shine, O Lord, upon us. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

**C: that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.**

P: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**C: let all the peoples praise you!**

P: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

**C: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!**

P: The earth has yielded its increase; **C: God, our God, shall bless us.**

P: God shall bless us; **C: let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

P: Cause Your Face to shine, O Lord, upon us.

## Lessons— Deuteronomy 8:10–18

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>When you eat and are satisfied, and you build nice houses and move into them, <sup>13</sup>and your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold increase, and everything that you have prospers, <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>You might say in your heart, "My ability and the power of my hand have earned this wealth for me." <sup>18</sup>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.

*P: But Thou O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.*

### Luke 17:11–19

<sup>11</sup>On another occasion, as Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>When he entered a certain village, ten lepers met him. Standing at a distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out loudly, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

<sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” As they went away they were cleansed.

<sup>15</sup>One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, thanking him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Jesus responded, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup>Was no one found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Get up and go your way. Your faith has saved you.”

*P: But Thou O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.*

Sermon— Psalm 65.11-13

You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

*We Have Nothing Except What God Gives Us*

1. Physically
2. Spiritually

*[Silence for meditation]*

Offering

**Stewardship Thought---** Deuteronomy 8:3 “...that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” The flip side to this statement is what Jesus told us about worrying in Matthew 6:33 “...seek first the Kingdom of God... and all these things will be added unto you.” When we put things in the right order – God, His Kingdom, and His Word first – everything else falls into place.

P: Let my prayers be set before You as incense,

**C: The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**BENEDICITE OMNIA OPERA** [*The Song of the Three Children*]

Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, you heavens:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, all waters above the heaven:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, all powers: **sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, sun and moon,

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, stars of heaven:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, all rain and dew:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, all winds: **sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, fire and heat:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, dews and snows:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, nights and days:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, light and darkness:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, lightnings and clouds:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Let the earth bless the Lord:

**let it sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, mountains and hills:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, seas and rivers:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, you springs:



**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, you whales and all creatures that move in the waters:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, all beasts and cattle:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, you sons of men:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, O Israel: **sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, you priests:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, you servants:

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous,

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart,

**sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever.**

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: **let us praise him and exalt Him forever.**



### THE PRAYERS—

P: The Lord has been mindful of us, and he shall bless us.

**C: He shall bless them that fear Him, both small and great.**

P: O that people would therefore praise the Lord for His goodness,

**C: And declare the wonders that He does for the children of men.**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with your spirit.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift; we call to remembrance Your loving-kindnesses and tender mercies which have been ever of old, and with grateful hearts we lift up to You the voice of our thanksgiving.

For the life You have given us, and the world in which we live;

**C: We thank You, O God.**

P: For the work we are enabled to do, and the truth we are permitted to learn; for whatever of good there has been in our past lives; and for all the hopes and aspirations which lead us on toward better things;

**C: We praise You, O God.**

P: For the order and constancy of natural law; for the beauty and bounty of the world; for day and night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest; for the varied gifts of loveliness and use which every season brings;

**C: We bless Your holy Name.**

P: For the comforts and gladness of life; for our homes and for our friends; for love, sympathy, and good will; **C: We thank You, O God.**

P: For the prophets and apostles, and all earnest seekers after truth; for all lovers and helpers of humankind, and all godly and gifted men and women;

**C: We praise You, O God.**

P: For the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ, and all the hopes which are ours as His disciples; for the presence and inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, and all the ministries of Your truth and grace; **C: We thank You, O God.**

P: For communion with You, the Father of our spirits; for the light and peace which are gained through trust and obedience, and the darkness and disquietude which befall us when we disobey Your laws:

**C: We praise You, O Lord.**

P: For the desire and power to help others; for every opportunity of serving our generation according to Your will, and manifesting the grace of Christ to people; **C: We praise You, O God.**

P: For all the discipline of life; for the tasks and trials by which we are trained to patience and self-control; and for troubles which lift us nearer to You and draw us into deeper fellowship with Christ;

**C: We thank You, O God.**

P: For the sacred ties that bind us to the unseen world; for the faith which dispels the shadows of earth, and fills the saddest moments of life with an immortal hope; **C: We praise You, O God.**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with your spirit.**

P: Let us pray. God of all grace and love, Whom we have praised with our lips; Grant that we may so praise You in consecrated and faithful lives, that the words of our mouth and the meditations of our hearts may be acceptable in Your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us to pray. **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**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with your spirit.**

P: Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and Your goodness, though we in no way deserve it, still abundantly provides for all our wants of body and soul. Grant us, we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit so that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks

for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

P: Watch over us, O Lord, heavenly Father, and preserve us from every peril that may happen to the body and soul. Grant us grace to take our rest this night in safety beneath Your protection. Guard and bless Your Church and this Your congregation. Graciously remember, in Your mercy, those who are in sickness, in need and in peril. Have mercy on all humankind; and when at length our last evening comes, grant us to fall asleep in Your peace, that we may awake in Your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

P: O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto Your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments, and also that we, being defended by You from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

P: Let us bless the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (✠) and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: Amen.**

Hymn #36 Now Thank We All Our God

*[The congregation faces the processional crucifix as it leaves]*

Silent Prayer

### *Tell the Good News About Jesus*

**THOSE WHO ARE READING *GOD GRANT IT***, please be sure to read the devotion for Thanksgiving Day on page 918.

**Tobit 4.8: If you have many possessions, make your gift from them in proportion; if few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have.**

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