
Thanksgiving Eve November 26, 2025

Good evening & welcome! We gather today to thank and praise our Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He supplies our bodily needs, provides salvation for our souls, and guides us in thankful, holy living. God bless our worship as we praise His holy name!

Call to Worship *Selections from the Psalms*

P: *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,*

C: **The world and those who dwell therein.** (Psalm 24)

P: *He determines the number of the stars;*

C: **He gives to all of them their names.**

P: *He covers the heavens with clouds;*

C: **He prepares rain for the earth; He makes grass grow on the hills.**

P: *He gives snow like wool;*

C: **He scatters frost like ashes.** (Psalm 147)

P: *Praise is due to you, O God,*

C: **You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.**

P: *You visit the earth and water it;*

C: **You greatly enrich it;**

P: *The river of God is full of water;*

C: **You provide their grain,**

P: *You crown the year with Your bounty,*

C: **Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.**

P: *The pastures of the wilderness overflow,*

C: The hills gird themselves with joy,

P: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,

C: They shout and sing together for joy. (Psalm 65)

P: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

C: 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! (Psalm 67)

P: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: For his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 118)

P: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

C: Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! (Psalm 95)

Confession of Sins and Plea for Forgiveness

Hymn - LSB 788 "Forgive us, Lord"

**1. Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we're unaware:**

**2. Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
That shows Your message ever new and near.**

**3. Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,
For words that speak at variance with deeds;
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways
Unmindful of a broken brother's needs:**

**6. Open our eyes to see Your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;**

May thankfulness be days in service spent, Reflection of Christ's life and love and light.

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P: *Listen to what the Lord says: “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. (Isaiah 43:25)*

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. (Isaiah 43:1)

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *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 blessings, and serve You in willing obedience; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C: (spoken) Amen.

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 28:9-12 *God promised to preserve Israel in response to their obedience to His commands. God still preserves His faithful people.*

The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. ¹¹ And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to

give you. ¹² The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

Meditation: *“Give thanks to God the Father, who preserves you.”*

Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me. God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil. God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Hymn WS 793 “Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

**1. Sing to the Lord of harvest;
Sing songs of love and praise.
With joyful hearts and voices
Your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons
In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest
A joyous song of love.**

**2. God makes the clouds rain goodness;
The deserts bloom and spring.
The hills leap up in gladness;
The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with His fullness,
All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing,
With plenty and with peace.**

**3. Bring to this sacred altar
The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest,
The souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him
When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him
Who gave His life for all.**

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Second Lesson: John 10:7-11, 14-18

The Good Shepherd redeems His flock by offering His perfect life in place of theirs. Jesus redeems us from sin for glory.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ...

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this

fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Meditation: *“All praise to God the Son, who redeems you.”*

Confession of Faith

Luther’s explanation of the 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Hymn WS 779 “Redeemed, restored, forgiven”

**1. Redeemed, restored, forgiven
Through Jesus' precious blood,
Heirs of His home in heaven
Oh, praise our pard'ning God!
Praise Him in tuneful measures
Who gave His Son to die;
Praise Him whose sev'nfold treasures
Enrich and sanctify.**

**2. Once on the dreary mountain
We wandered far and wide,
Far from the cleansing fountain,
Far from the pierced side.
But Jesus sought and found us;
Our many sins He bore.
With cords of love He bound us
To Him forevermore.**

**3. Dear Master, Yours the glory
Of each recovered soul.
Ah, who can tell the story
Of love that made us whole?
Not ours, not ours the merit;
To You alone the praise!
Give us a thankful spirit
To serve You all our days.**

**4. Now keep us, holy Savior,
In Your true love and fear,
And grant us by Your favor
The grace to persevere
Till, in Your new creation,
Our earthly troubles o'er,
Heirs of Your free salvation,
We praise You evermore.**

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Third Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Faith in Christ is an indescribable gift. The Spirit gives us faith and further sanctifies us that we serve Him and others with love.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one

must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Meditation: *“Honor God the Spirit, who sanctifies you.”*

Confession of Faith

Luther’s explanation of the 3rd Article

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Hymn WS 739 "Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling"

**1. Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
In the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
O'er a world of gloom and night,
Holy Spirit, ever raising
Those on earth to thrones on high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit,
You we praise and magnify.**

**2. Holy Spirit, ever living
As the Church's very life,
Holy Spirit, ever striving
Through us in a ceaseless strife,
Holy Spirit, ever forming
In the Church the mind of Christ;
You we praise with endless worship
For Your gracious gifts unpriced.**

**3. Holy Spirit, ever working
Through the Church's ministry,
Teaching, strength'ning, and absolving,
Setting captive sinners free,
Holy Spirit, ever binding
Age to age and soul to soul,
In communion never ending,
You we worship and extol.**

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Offering: "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever." (Ps 136:1)

Thanksgiving Prayer

P: Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

C: Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.

P: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

C: Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

P: Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

C: Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

P: Thank you for the greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

C: Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

The 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.**

Hymn TLH 36 "Now thank we all our God"

**1. Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.**

**2. Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed**

**And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.**

**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 heaven adore!
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.**

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Luther's Evening Prayer - spoken in unison

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me today, and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, wherever I have done wrong, and graciously protect me tonight. Into Your hands I entrust my body and soul and everything else. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the devil may have no power over me. Amen.

The 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 on you with favor and give you peace.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Hymn WS 792 "Let All Things Now Living"

**Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.**

**God's banners are o'er us; His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

Silent Prayer

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