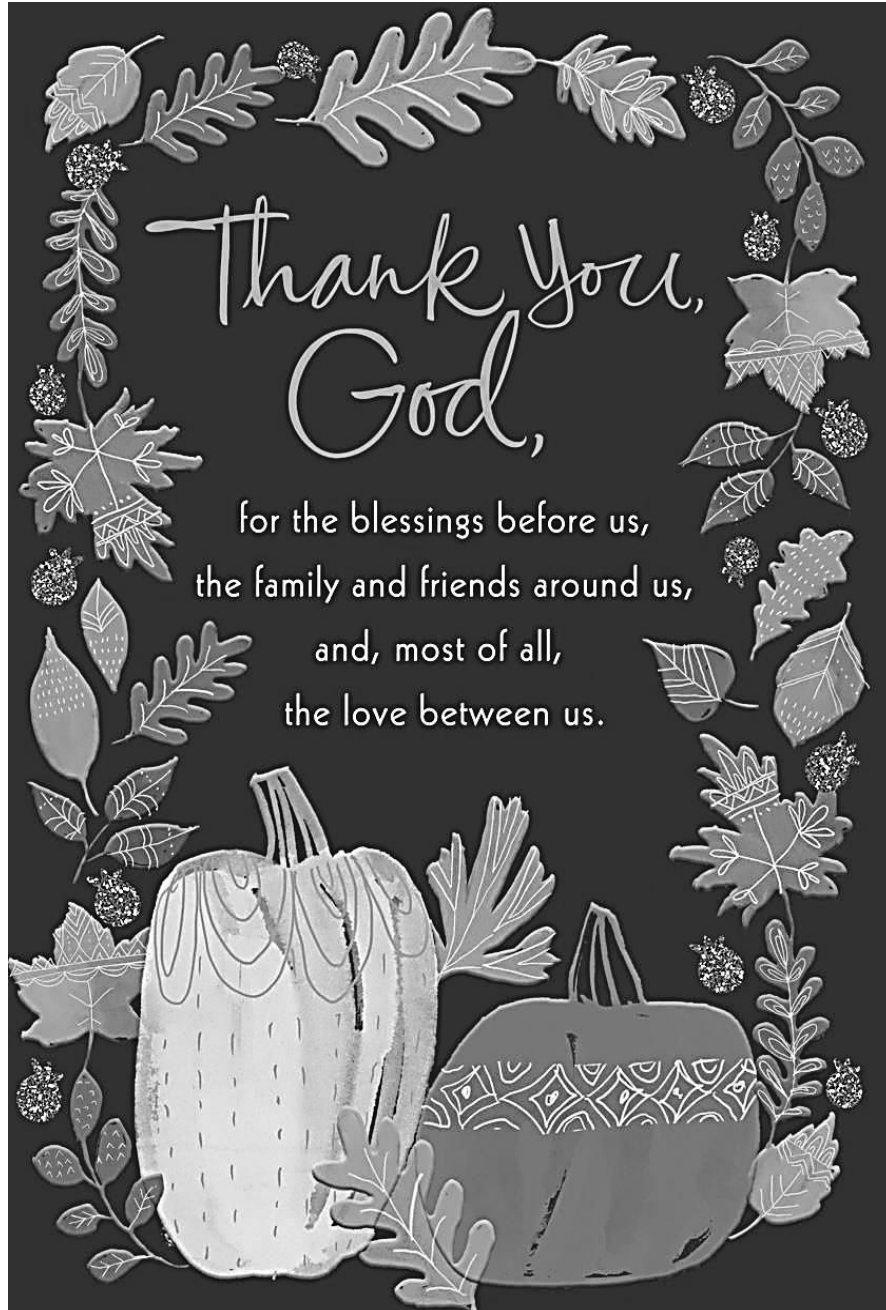


THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

October 9th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw

Prayer: O Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us the fruits of the earth in their season, and hast crowned the year with the goodness, give us grateful hearts, that we may unfeignedly thank Thee for all Thy loving-kindness, and worthily magnify Thy holy name; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERVICE CALENDAR OCTOBER 2022

TODAY – Thanksgiving [John 6: 25-32] DS Setting 1 Communion

Sunday, October 16th – Luke 18: 1-8 [Unjust Judge] DS setting 3 [without Communion]

Sunday, October 23rd – Luke 18: 9-14 [Pharisee & Tax Collector] Creative Communion

Sunday, October 30th – Reformation [John 8: 31-36]

Luther's Chief part of the Catechism Service Order

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Psalm 145: 16

Wednesday: Gen. 8: 15-22

Friday: Matt. 6: 25-33

Tuesday: Psalm 65

Thursday: 1 Tim. 2: 1-8`

Saturday: Ruth 2: 1-23

Musician: 10 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz

Reader: 10 a.m. – Tom Kuhl

Greeter: 10 a.m. – Heather Turner and Donna Huffman

SUNDAY SCHOOL is held (today at 9:00 a.m.) before service the first 2 Sundays of each month. Our focus this year is on "God's Good Rules, His 10 Commandments". Parents are welcome to stay for a coffee and time to read their own devotions or join in Christian conversation.

YOUTH CATECHISM CLASS 2022—Christ Lutheran Church – Rev. Todd Hoefts

Youth Catechism Class with Pastor Todd is a time for young people to see their own unique place in God's Story of love, acceptance, and new life in Jesus Christ. Scripture-rich lessons focus on our identity as Jesus' brothers and sisters through our Baptismal faith. Preparation for receiving Jesus' Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine for Holy Communion makes for a meaningful life-long faith journey.

Part of Catechism class is learning how to participate in Sunday worship and undertake opportunities to serve and "live their faith" in small local outreach projects. Altar candle lighting, ushering and training for assistance in Sunday services will be an integral part of class. Because of this, regular attendance during our Sunday worship is a requirement of all students.

Young people who are beginning grade 5 through grade 9 are welcome to join the Catechism Class.

The start date and time will be set in the near future.

Please email PastorToddHoeffs@gmail.com to let him know your intention for class. Feel free to ask any and all questions you may have about this. *Your servant in Christ, Pastor Todd*

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES to Louise Gondosch and her family on the passing of her Aunt Marilyn Raaflaub.

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Tuesday: 9:30—11:00 a.m. – Precious Moments

Thursday: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. – SOUL

PRECIOUS MOMENTS: We are thrilled to have our Precious Moments up and running again. If YOU or a "mom or caregiver" you know has little ones (even babies), we invite them to join us. We meet at the church on Tuesday mornings between 9:30 - 11 a.m. The coffee and tea are always on (thanks to Judy!) and lots of playing, singing, reading a story, snack and craft. Hope to see you!

LMWL-C/MARY MARTHA:

This is such an exciting time to welcome back and extend an invitation to everyone for our new Fall/Winter program. Please mark your calendars so that you may be able to join us:

Tuesday, October 18, 7 p.m.: Speaker from Salem Chapel - Rochelle Bush (*underground railroad*)

Tuesday, November 15, 7 p.m. Assembly of ***Warm Feet for the Streets*** sock blessings.

Saturday, November 26: BAZAAR

Tuesday, December 20, 5:30 p.m.: Advent/Christmas Dinner

We look forward to seeing familiar faces at our meetings and welcoming new faces! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call Lorraine at 905 964 5837!

¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3: 14-16

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: We are starting back up after our summer break. We will meet on **Thursday, October 20th at 7:15 p.m.** We will meet at the church. Hope to see you there.



TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS URN FUNDRAISER/WORKSHOP: We are excited to be going to the **Watering Can in Vineland** (3711 King St), to make our "**own traditional urn**" through step by step instructions. It will take place **Friday, November 11th**. Fellowship starts at 5:30 p.m., bring your own wine or other beverage (goodies supplied). Cost is \$75.00 (\$10 going towards Haiti feeding program). Friends are welcome to join us. Secure your spot by giving your registration money to Wendy Shook (905-380-6544) by Sunday, November 6th. Bring your own wine/beverage, goodies will be supplied.

Last Sunday Attendance: **October 2nd, 2022** **Attn: 10 a.m. – 114**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	2,133.00	157,379.68	(60,536.47)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	132.00	11,483.50	(3,901.12)
Property Improvement:			57.00	4,763.00	

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOEBOXES are now available in the narthex. Please return the filled shoeboxes by Sunday, November 13th.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Tim Reck, Fellowship Chairman, needs volunteers for Events. Please contact him if you can help.

SEMINARY GUILD: Copies of the Fall Newsletter can be found at the back of the church. "**Harvest Day at the Seminary**" will be held on **Saturday, October 15th**. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to attend. Donations of non-perishable foods for the Seminary Pantry would be greatly appreciated.



SHOEBOX GIFTS

Operation Christmas Child has become a Holiday tradition for many of us here at Christ Lutheran. The love and care put into every shoebox gift has changed the lives of children worldwide, and I think we can say it has changed us as well.

Together, let's continue to make these children an important part of our Christmas celebration by extending Christ's love and compassion.

www.samaritanspurse.ca

HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX:

1. Pick up a designated shoebox from the narthex.
2. Decide on the category and age. Girl/Boy 2-4; 5-9; 10-14
3. Fill the box, and put an elastic around it. Mark if for gender/age.
4. Place a \$10.00 cheque in the offering basket and the congregation will send a combined donation. You will be tax receipted by CLC.
5. Drop the box off at the Church by Sunday, November 13th.

SUGGESTED GIFTS:

Toys:	slinky, yo-yo, kazoos, animals, stickers, dolls, balls, cars
School Supplies:	pens, paper, stamps, markers, calculators, pencil crayons & sharpener, colouring books
Hygiene Items:	soap, toothbrush, comb, washcloth, NO toothpaste or shampoo
Other:	hard candy only, sunglasses, ball caps, socks, flip flops, watches, hairclips, T-shirts, underwear, small picture books, flashlights, batteries

Please DO NOT include: used items, war related items, medicines, cosmetics, breakable items, perishable foods, liquids (shampoo, etc.), gum

Notice to Church Extension Fund Depositors: The Church Extension Fund (CEF) is winding down its operations and as of now all depositors with current addresses have received their deposited funds plus the interest owing. However, we have a number of unclaimed savings accounts and savings certificates as we do not have current contact information for these. If you or someone you know thinks they may have a CEF account which has not been redeemed, please contact Darryll Holland at: 800-465-8179 ext4 or dholland@lceast.ca. Also if you are in possession of God Bank Savings Stamps or Tracky Stamps, these too can be redeemed by returning the books or stamps to: Lutheran East District, 275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3.

THANKSGIVING HOLY COMMUNION

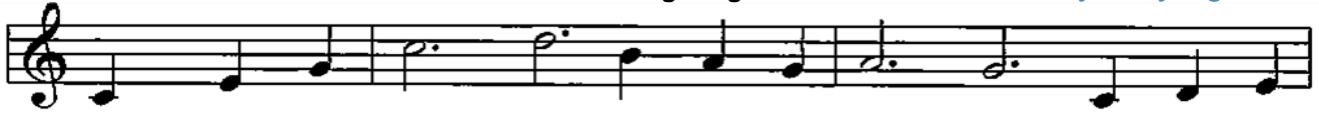
Lutheran Service Book Setting One

October 9, 2022 + 10 AM Worship

FIRST HYMN:

"Praise & Thanksgiving"

www.hymnary.orgLSB



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed 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 -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

4 Then will Your bless - ing reach ev'ry peo - ple, free - ly con - fess - ing, Your gracious Hand.
Where all be - lieve You, no - one should hun - ger, in Your love's sway You, nourish the land.

Words: Albert Bayly, 1901-1984; Music: Irish, 19th cent. BUNESSAN © 1957 Oxford Univ. Press

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our
sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [Brief silence for reflection]**

Let us then confess our sin to God our Father:

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned
against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of
Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we
may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your
sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your
sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE:

O Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy and give us Your peace. Amen.

GLORY TO GOD

(LSB Page 154)



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



B Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:



We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,



Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world;



have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the



Father; receive our prayer. For you a-



lone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,



you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,



in the glory of God the Father. Amen

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

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 willingly; we ask this through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Deuteronomy 8: 1-10*

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. 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, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 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. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. This is the Word of the Lord.

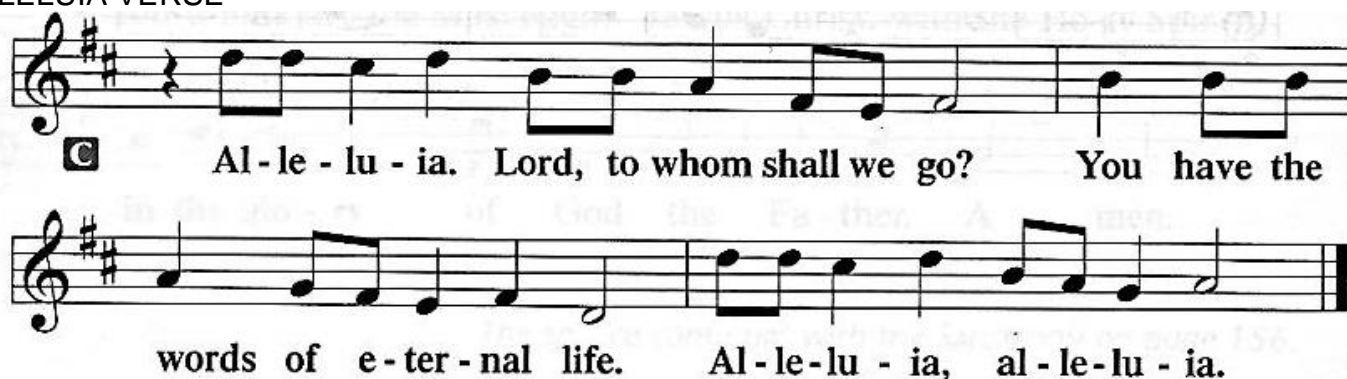
Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *2 Corinthians 9: 7-12*

[St. Paul writes]: Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing^[c] in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 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. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



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.

The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 17:11-19

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter:



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Come, You Thankful People"

"St. George's Windsor" tune

Come, you thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.

God, our maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

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.

Bu the fruitful ears to store, in His garner evermore!

Even so, Lord quickly come to Your final harvest home.

Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,

There, forever purified, in Your garner to abide.

Come, with all Your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

Words: Henry Alford, 1844 Public Domain

MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered.*

THE OFFERING SONG **"Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful"**



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Merciful Father, you have protected the fruits of the earth and crowned the year with your blessing. We give you thanks for physical health, for the use of our senses, and for our intellect and thought. Make us good stewards of our abilities that we may bring glory to your name every day. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

We give you thanks gracious Father for all the good things the earth produces. By your provision we are clothed and fed and lack no good thing. Care for those who live in want and teach us to be generous with the gifts you have first given us. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

We give you thanks Lord God for the opportunity to work, learn and rest. Help us to serve you and others faithfully in our vocation; and provide work for the unemployed. Bless all places of learning and students. Help them to learn what is good, true and beautiful, to distinguish between right and wrong, and to contribute to the needs of our society. Give them strength and growth for the challenges ahead. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for works of beauty of every kind. By such things you have enriched and added joy to our lives. Bless and encourage all that is good and uplifting in our arts, music and culture. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Dear Father, we thank you for the gift of parents and children, family and friends. Let the light of your love shine in our homes. Help us to overcome strife and conflict with your patience and forgiveness. Help parents in the task of raising children. Comfort the lonely, the sick, especially we bring before you.....[names added here...] and bring them into health according to Your own will. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

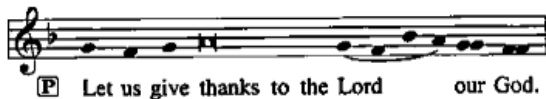
We thank you Lord God for the blessings of a free and peaceful society. Help those in government and positions of responsibility to maintain honesty and truth, justice and peace. Encourage all our citizens to lead good lives and strive for the common good. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Into Your hands, O Father, we commend all for Whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, which we have come to know in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord, in Whose name we pray.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT



It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, O Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; Who, on this day, overcame death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection, opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth, and the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

LSB Page 161

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name....*

WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

LAMB OF GOD

LSB tune # 163

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN:

“We Come As Guests”

[Sing to the Lord of Harvest tune]



1 We come as guests in - vit - ed when Je - sus bids us
2 We eat and drink, re - cei - ving from Christ the grace we
3 One bread is ours for shar - ing, one sin - gle fruit - ful



dine, his friends on earth u - nit - ed to
need, and in our hearts be - liev - ing on
vine, our fel - low - ship de - clar - ing re -



share the bread and wine; the bread of life is
him by faith we feed; with won - der and thanks -
newed in bread and wine: re - newed, sus - tained, and



bro - ken; the wine is free - ly poured for
giv - ing for love that knows no end, we
giv - en by to - ken, sign, and word, the



us, in sol - emn to - ken of Christ our dy - ing Lord.
find in Je - sus liv - ing our ev - er - pres - ent friend.
pledge and seal of heav - en, the love of Christ our Lord.

Glory to God 504

TEXT: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1975; © 1984 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.
MUSIC (WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN 7.6.7.6.D): Johann Steurlein, 1875

“For The Fruits Of His Creation”

[Welsh Melody]

**For the fruits of his creation, thanks be to God.
For his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Words Fred Pratt Green [1903-200] © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, 380 S Main Pl, Carol Stream, IL 60188

POST COMMUNION HYMN:

"Thank The Lord"

LSB Page 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Generous God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, as His Body and Blood have come to our lips. May all of us we who have received this great Holy Meal may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace.
Amen.

LAST HYMN:

"Give Thanks"

www.hymnary.orgLBS

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the
 Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__ Je - sus
 Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give
 thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__
 Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
 strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be - cause of
 what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
 weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am
 rich," _____ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.
 Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

Text: Henry Smith, b. 1952
Tune: Henry Smith, b. 1952

GIVE THANKS
Peculiar meter

Text and tune: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP c/o Integrity Media, Inc.

2 Cor. 9:15; 12:9-10; 2 Cor. 8:9

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REV. TODD HOEFFS
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY (Pentecost 18)
Sermon: St. Luke 17:11-19
October 9, 2022

Thanksgiving in Canada is 150 years old this year.

The first Thanksgiving Day after Confederation originally on April 5, 1872, celebrating the recovery of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) from a serious illness. A more fixed calendar date as the 2nd Monday in October arrived in 1879, when then Governor General of Canada Vincent Massey wrote: "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed" Marking this the 144th Thanksgiving Day. While it may seem unusual to make a holiday out of giving thanks, just the act of saying thanks is a learned behaviour

and must be taught by parents and culture. It doesn't come naturally. And why is saying thank you important? Well, it acknowledges that we've received help or a gift or an act of kindness.

It's more than gratitude or duty. It's honouring another person's generosity. For we are not islands. We need each other. We depend upon each other. It does us good to give and to receive with a grateful heart. And all of us depend on our Lord and God for everything in this life.

Even the 10 lepers Jesus' encounters is a story far more than just saying "thank you."

It's about recognizing that Jesus not only is the giver of all good gifts BUT has an entire storehouse of bounty with which to bless us with. He's travelling in this region on the way to Jerusalem.

On the BOUNDARY between Galilee and Samaria. At that time the location held a lot of nothing.

Not exactly a wasteland, but not a thriving suburb either. Twisting roads and desolate villages.

The kind of region you'd find outcasts. Sick, unclean, rejected, and despised; pushed outside the city gates. Lepers lived as deemed unfit for civilized society. Remaining at a distance; out of sight, out of mind. Leprosy at that time was superstitiously held up as the worst of the worst diseases.

But it could be any number of skin conditions—everything from minor pimples to severe psoriasis to having skin and limbs decay and fall off the body. No one knew where it came from but no one wanted any of it near them. Jewish religious interpretation of God's law kept lepers publicly and religiously UNCLEAN. Initially, God allowed Moses this practice much like lockdown in pandemic:

For community safety. NOT to make outcasts. If leprosy cleared up a Jerusalem priest must see it gone, offer a sacrifice and be announced CLEAN in the community. Quite an embarrassing, sad, isolating ordeal. The 10 lepers recognize Jesus immediately. Word does, in fact, travel fast;

even in that era, and even to lepers. Based on whatever knowledge they have, the lepers judge Jesus to be a master; that is, someone with influence, power, and authority. They didn't all the religious leaders nor temple priests "master." They sense they belong to Him. How right they are!

But certainly, they're also hoping that He'll be kind to them. The plea offered is a vague one. Their words are simply, "Have mercy." They'll settle for whatever Jesus wishes to give them.

This is how begging works. Don't be too specific. Take what is given, and don't press your luck.

I've heard that many times over the years from folks who live on the streets. More than anything, they crave human contact and acknowledgement they exist And that they have value. 2 weeks ago I

stopped in at the Grantham Ave thrift store [looking for vintage LPs]. A guy who was noticeably low income and used to life on the streets, Screamed profanities at a worker as they saw him try and steal a pair of jeans. I don't think he actually wanted them, just impulsive. I went out to my car and he

was anxiously walking around. He wanted spare change, I had none. He wanted a drink, my water bottle was nearly empty. He said "padre, pray for me" and he closed his eyes and folded his hands and I prayed out loud for him. He calmed right down. Blessed him and he went away THANKING ME.

The Lepers don't expect much, but they want something more than they've ever been given. They simply yell out to Jesus "Master have mercy". Jesus doesn't come near them. Doesn't even cross the street. He just shouts back, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Do what's been expected.

Legal health check. This culturally proves they'll be as good as new! Jesus uses an old ritual He will make unnecessary very soon at His time on the cross. When the entire world gets cleanses not by

animal offering but by His Blood. Jesus' cleansing of the leprosy is real and complete. The Greek word for cleansing is where we get our English word "cathartic". When we experience a challenge and overcome, it feels very cathartic. Feels Good. Feels whole. Feel healthy. Body, soul, mind, skin, lifestyle, everything. New. And off they go. On to the temple to see the priests. That's it. Nine of these ten are just happy to walk away without the disease. They're satisfied in going back to their old lives and their old ways. They'll settle for what's good instead of what's best. Jesus' isn't dismayed that these guys are somehow ungrateful. You can bet that they're very grateful; as grateful as you would be. Jesus' isn't frustrated because they don't say thanks. His concern is greater, larger –He has so much more to give them: to come close, to touch them with His divine embrace; to speak divine Words to them; and share with them His own divine life; to make them not just formerly sick people, but His disciples and friends. Jesus wishes that humanity wouldn't continually settle for less. We chase after pleasure, even as Jesus yearns to give joy. We hoard gifts with hands tightly guarding our stuff that they can't open up to receive greater treasures. A disease is finally healing, a new job is offered, or a prayer is answered, or we're let down yet again...someone comes to church enough times to start feeling a bit better about being reconciled... And then they disappear. None of us are actually ungrateful. We say "Thank you" again & again & we mean it. While we all have trouble feeling grateful for any number of reasons, the sinful root of our problem isn't truly ingratitude. The problem is distrust and lack of faith, that we somehow imagine that all Jesus can do is little things. Or if we get too much help we become dependent and owe God, As if we have anything He desires – apart from the faith He's placed into our hearts. Even the lepers don't owe Jesus. One leper does stop in his tracks and goes back to Jesus. Not out of duty. Not because his parents taught him good manners. He has something more. He values Jesus' gift and knows what kind of GIVER He is. This guy makes the Jesus connection to the healing and returns to worship and give thanks. A SAMARITAN. Why is that so important? Why is faith coming from an outsider, an enemy, a hatred group so incredible!? Because faith is found in places we never expect to see it. And his faith has saved him. Wow. Jesus lifts up a guy who worships a false god as having FAITH THAT SAVED HIM...which means the gift GOD has given in Him holds on to His SON as the divine healer of what really makes us sick. In the course of time Jesus shows HIMSELF to the Temple priests. And unlike those 9 whom He healed, Jesus is declared unclean, unfit, and unfaithful; rejected, cast out, and crucified. Pushed out of the city gates and onto the lonely hill of Calvary. Upon the cross, lepers and sinners and religious leaders and outcasts and lowlifes and isolated folks see that Jesus' words of healing and forgiveness are not spoken like so many cheap compliments. ALL of us see and know the truth: Jesus the Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, hanging dead on the cross. For you. This is the cost of healing and saving everyone. All the lepers. All the priests. All of you, to whom He's given everything, even His life. For all of hopeless feelings which make us walk away from our Lord, He's searched us and known us, and found us and freed us and healed us. And He's not looking for any payback or a handwritten thank you card. And yet, faith that saves DOES say thank you. Thank you is EUCHARIST in the Greek Bible. Eucharist. Great Thanksgiving. Another word we have for Holy Communion, the Lord's Holy Supper. And that's the thanks we say and sing to God for the gift of Christ in the Bread and Wine during the Sacrament time of our service. Jesus only wants to give you more. That's what Worship is. Worship happens when that one leper goes face down at Jesus' feet. Where are today before our Lord here, present on our altar. We're not just clean, but forgiven and freed. So to Him and to you, Jesus says, "Go your way." Go your way, too...We've have been cleansed of the leprosy of our sin by Jesus' Name and the water of Baptism. And while we aren't yet "symptom free," the cure has been applied. You've been joined to the death and life of Jesus. A life which enjoys not just what is good, but what is best. Living in mercy and witness— So that others you least expect will know that their faith has saved them, too. That's what Jesus wants. All who are healed, all who are sick, all who have need, to be with Him forever. That's it. That's your way. Because it is Jesus' way. You are part of Him and His Kingdom, not as outcasts but as brothers and sisters. We rise and go our way. Our faith has saved us. For this we can truly and honestly say, thank you...and live, thankfully. Amen.