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**Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor**  
**David B. Richards, Parish Musician**  
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## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

*During the Prayers of Thanksgiving, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other prayers of thanksgiving may be added here." You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) of thanksgiving which you will offer aloud during that time. You may conclude your prayer either with the words, "Lord, in your mercy," or simply "Amen," so others will know when to begin their prayers.*

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## A NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING

In the first year of the presidency of George Washington in 1789, a Day of National Thanksgiving was set aside for the last Thursday of November. Since that time, Americans have celebrated this day in remembrance of all the blessings which God has poured down upon the nation.

In the presidential proclamation for Thanksgiving Day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had this to say:

"It is the duty of nations as well as of citizens to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord... .

..."We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

A SERVICE OF THE WORD  
WITH PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: "You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty." We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God's creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.*

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**SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
*EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

**GATHERING**

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

*\*=please stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**His steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

**Make known God's deeds among the peoples!**

God blesses us with gifts of love:

**With food and clothing, home and family.**

God blesses us with daily work:

**And all we need from day to day.**

God protects us in time of danger:

**And guards us from every evil.**

God calls us into relationship with him:

**And forms us into one holy people.**

Therefore we shall offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

- 1 As saints of old their firstfruits brought  
of orchard, flock, and field  
to God, the giver of all good,  
the source of bounteous yield;  
so we today firstfruits would bring,  
the wealth of this good land,  
of farm and market, shop and home,  
of mind and heart and hand.
  
- 2 A world in need now summons us  
to labor, love, and give;  
to make our life an offering  
to God, that all may live.  
The church of Christ is calling us  
to make the dream come true:  
a world redeemed by Christ-like love;  
all life in Christ made new.
  
- 3 In gratitude and humble trust  
we bring our best today  
to serve your cause and share your love  
with all along life's way.  
O God, who gave yourself to us  
in Jesus Christ your Son,  
teach us to give ourselves each day  
until life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900-1996, alt.

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## \*DIALOGUE FOR THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,  
**for in your wisdom you have formed us.**

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.  
**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You set free those who are bound.  
**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You raise up those whose courage falters.  
**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You provide for our every need.  
**Accept our grateful praises.**

You have called us from all peoples.  
**We rejoice and bless your name forever.**

You bless your people with peace.  
**We bless you and praise your loving grace.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,  
**for in your wisdom you have formed us.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## WORD

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*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Joel 2:21-27

*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 the Lord will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

*Christian fellowship involves sharing with those in need. Here Paul is gathering a collection for the church in Jerusalem from all the Gentile churches he helped found. We can be extravagant in our giving because God is extravagant, not stingy, in providing for our lives.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may remain seated for the Gospel Reading.*

### GOSPEL READING

Luke 17:11-19

*A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of our Lord...

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### THANKSGIVING MEDITATION

## OFFERTORY

### THANK OFFERING IN-GATHERING

*Designated to benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Offerings of food will be given to the Riverside Township Food Pantry.*

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, who desires good for all creatures, satisfy our hunger not just for food, but for freedom, truth, justice and love.

O Risen Christ, you revealed yourself to us as one who gives to the poor and cares for all people. We dedicate our lives and our offerings to your service.

O Holy Spirit, bless these gifts and abide in our hearts so that our gifts and our actions may live out our faith, glorify God, and bring forth a fruitful harvest for the kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### \*LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

As the pioneers of the Plymouth colony gathered around the feasting table with native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for all that they had been given by our Bountiful Provider, so we too gather on this Day of Thanksgiving to offer thanks for all those gifts which the Lord has seen fit to give us, especially for our country, our state and our city.

Almighty and Generous God, we bring before you, in our hearts and on our Thanksgiving table, the gifts and blessings which you have given us this year. And, in humble gratitude, we give you thanks for them. We thank you as well for the blessings which come to us through the peace and prosperity of our nation, our state and our city. **We praise you, and we thank you, O Lord.**

We acknowledge that as we have greatly received, so we have received great responsibilities. Therefore, O Lord, keep us from being unfaithful in our lives as citizens of this nation and as recipients of all that past generations of Americans have bequeathed to us. Help us to be worthy of our ancestors and of you our God. **Help us, O Lord, to be faithful.**

To all the high desires of the pioneers and prophets:  
**Help us, O Lord, to be faithful.**

To their belief in the possibilities of a common people:  
**Help us, O Lord, to be faithful.**

To their passion for freedom and their readiness to die in its defense:  
**Help us, O Lord, to be faithful.**

To their scorn of tyranny, and their trust in the people to rule:  
**Help us, O Lord, to be faithful.**

To their vision of a human commonwealth in which the people of many lands may share:  
**Help us, O Lord, to be faithful.**

To their release from the prejudice of an old world and their will to build a new one:  
**Help us, O Lord, to be faithful.**

As our ancestors trusted in you, O Lord, and you delivered them:  
**Keep us ever close to you.**

*Other prayers of thanksgiving may be added here.*

Lord of the nations, guide our people by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give us what outward prosperity may be your will, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*On What Has Now Been Sown*

- 1 On what has now been sown  
your blessing, Lord, bestow;  
the pow'r is yours alone  
to make it sprout and grow.  
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,  
and yours alone shall be the praise!**
- 2 To you our wants are known,  
from you are all our pow'rs;  
accept what is your own  
and pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive  
and to your word a blessing give.**
- 3 Oh, grant that each of us,  
now met before you here,  
may meet together thus  
when you and yours appear,  
and follow you to heav'n, our home.  
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

## \*CLOSING PRAYER OF BLESSING

Most gracious God, you crown the year with your goodness. We praise you that you have ever fulfilled your promise that, while earth remains, seedtime and harvest shall not cease. We bless you for the order and constancy of nature, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea, for the providence that year by year supplies our need. We thank you for your blessing on the work of those who plowed the soil and sowed the seed, and have now gathered in the fruits of the earth. And with our thanksgiving for these blessings, accept our praise, O God, for the eternal riches of your grace in Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor and worship, forever and ever. **Amen**

## \*BLESSINGS FOR THANKSGIVING

May the Lord of all creation shower blessings and favor upon you. **Amen**

May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with his presence and fill your loved ones with peace. **Amen**

May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days until you come into the joys of his eternal kingdom. **Amen**

And the Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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LEADERS

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor  
Brandon Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

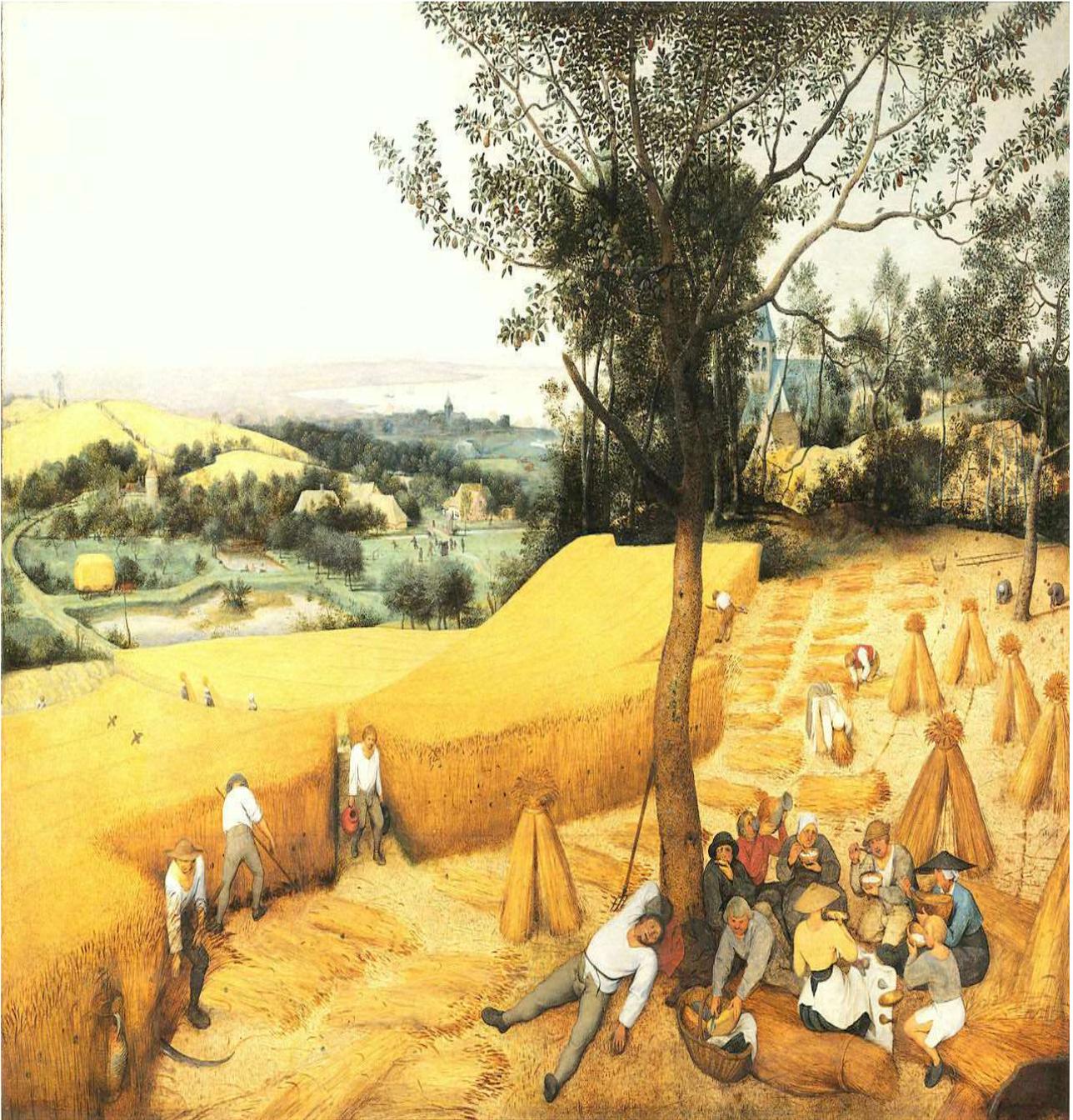
David Richards

LECTOR

Jand Lauritsen

GREETER AND USHER

Fred Kuzel



**The Harvesters. Pieter Bruegel, 1565.**

## Day of Thanksgiving

For thousands of years, human communities have kept harvest festivals. Indeed, several of the annual celebrations described in the Old Testament were previously harvest festivals onto which the Israelites layered their tribe's historical memories. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln called for a national day of Thanksgiving, in hopes that such a festival might bring some unity to the North and the South. This holiday became attached to the memory of an autumn harvest festival held in 1621 in Plymouth colony, Massachusetts. Of the 102 passengers on the Mayflower in 1620, only 53 were alive a year later, but 90 Wampanoag came for the three-day celebration, bringing with them much of the food. In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt declared the fourth Thursday in November to be a national Thanksgiving holiday. Canadians keep Thanksgiving on the second Monday in October. In the United States, Thanksgiving is a holiday of immense popularity for family feasts and national sports activities. Immigrant communities have added to the traditional foods their own ethnic harvest foods.

Some Christians add to the event a worship service, usually held on Thanksgiving Eve [or Morning]. For such a service, the interpretation of the biblical readings has been simplified in order to focus on the single theme of "thanksgiving."

