

# Sunday Worship Service – October 11, 2020

Adapted from a Thanksgiving Service written by Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel, a pastor of the ELCA.

**Prelude** – Joshua Hendricksen

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Call to Worship**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**God's 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, the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**

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

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

**Opening Hymn “Praise and Thanksgiving” #689** (verses 1,3,4)

1. **Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
for all things living, you have made good:  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**
3. **Father, providing food for your children,  
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share  
one with another, so that, rejoicing  
with us, all others may know your care.**
4. **Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,  
freely confessing your gracious hand.  
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;  
your love sustaining showers the land.**

### Prayer of Confession <sup>1</sup>

Praise is due to you, O God.

**But in our pride, we forget you,  
believing that our successes are due to our own power.**

Praise is due to you, O God.

**But we exalt ourselves, instead,  
forgetting that you have freed us to find our life in you.**

Praise is due to you, O God.

**Forgive us when we rely on our own strength,  
instead of yours.**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

The Holy One provides us with every blessing in abundance,  
forgiving us even before we remember to give thanks.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

### Hymn of Praise “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #733

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

*Refrain:* **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.**

2. **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**
3. **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

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<sup>1</sup> From *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2014 Edition*. Copyright © 2013 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

**Prayer of the Day:**

**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.**

**Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7–18**

The LORD your God is bringing you to a wonderful land, a land with streams of water, springs, and wells that gush up in the valleys and on the hills; a land of wheat and barley, vines, fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food without any shortage – you won't lack a thing there – a land where stone is hard as iron and where you will mine copper from the hills. You will eat, you will be satisfied, and you will bless the LORD your God in the wonderful land that he's given you.

But watch yourself! Don't forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commands or his case laws or his regulations that I am commanding you right now. When you eat, get full, build nice houses, and settle down, and when your herds and your flocks are growing large, your silver and gold are multiplying, and everything you have is thriving, don't become arrogant, forgetting the LORD your God:

the one who rescued you from Egypt, from the house of slavery;  
 the one who led you through this vast and terrifying desert of  
     poisonous snakes and scorpions, of cracked ground with no water;  
 the one who made water flow for you out of a hard rock;  
 the one who fed you manna in the wilderness, which your ancestors  
     had never experienced, in order to humble and test you, but in order  
     to do good to you in the end.

Don't think to yourself, My own strength and abilities have produced all this prosperity for me. Remember the LORD your God! He's the one who gives you the strength to be prosperous in order to establish the covenant he made with your ancestors – and that's how things stand right now.

Here ends the reading. **Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

**Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6–15**

What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. As it is written, *He scattered everywhere; he gave to the needy; his righteousness remains forever.*

The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us. Your ministry of this service to God's people isn't only fully meeting their needs but it is also multiplying in many expressions of thanksgiving to God. They will give honor to God for your obedience to your confession of Christ's gospel. They will do this because this service provides evidence of your obedience, and because of your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. They will also pray for you, and they will care deeply for you because of the outstanding grace that God has given to you. Thank God for his gift that words can't describe!

Here ends the reading. **Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with skin diseases approached him. Keeping their distance from him, they raised their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, show us mercy!"

When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they left, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned and praised God with a loud voice. He fell on his face at Jesus' feet and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus replied, "Weren't ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? No one returned to praise God except this foreigner?" Then Jesus said to him, "Get up and go. Your faith has healed you."

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon: Increasing Your Yield

### Hymn of the Day *“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.
2. 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.
3. 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.

### Apostles' Creed:

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.

### Thanksgiving Litany <sup>2</sup>

For summer's passing and harvest home –  
**we thank you!**

For autumn's splendor and winter's chill –  
**we thank you!**

For seed that has fallen, the promise of spring –  
**we thank you!**

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<sup>2</sup> posted on *Third Space* blog. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>

As a part of nature's wondrous cycle  
of new birth, growth, fruitfulness and death  
we rejoice in the creation of new life.

For parenthood, the passing on of knowledge,  
for understanding and the wisdom of years.  
We are grateful for those who have gone before  
passing on to us our spiritual heritage.

May our lives blossom as the apple tree in spring.  
May we become fruitful in thought and deed.  
And may the seed of love that falls to the ground  
linger beyond our time on this earth.

For fruitfulness –

**we thank you!**

For a generous spirit –

**we thank you!**

For wisdom and faith –

**we thank you!**

For old age and new birth –

**we thank you!**

For those who have gone before us,  
seeds planted in your rich pasture with the hope of life eternal:  
may their enduring spirit live on enriching and empowering our lives,  
their love linger, their presence be near until we meet once more.

For your embracing love – a Father's love, a Mother's love –  
the love that sees our failings and forgives us;  
the love that sees our joys and embraces us;  
the love that knows no end or beginning,  
a love that could die for us, we bless you.

**We bless you.**

### **Song "Give Thanks"**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,**

**Give thanks to the Holy One,**

**Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. (repeat)**

**And now let the weak say "I am strong,"**

**Let the poor say "I am rich,"**

**Because of what the Lord has done for us. (repeat)**

### Prayers of the People <sup>3</sup>

Ever faithful Lord,  
 Ever giving Son,  
 Ever present Spirit,  
 For the many gifts you grant us  
 and the opportunity to enjoy these things;  
 For your daily provision  
 and for the constant signs of your healing love;  
 For the hope amidst despair  
 and the light which always shines;  
 For all these things,  
 'thank you' is just so inadequate  
 but it's all we have:  
 ... to show our gratitude in word, in thought and in action.

So thank you, Lord  
 and may our thanks move beyond words  
 to transform us into thankful folk,  
 faithful folk,  
 seeing folk,  
 folk who see need and see the need to act,  
 folk who love to live and live to love,  
 folk who serve you by serving others.

Help us to be amongst those  
 who include the excluded  
 and bring in those who are marginalised,  
 that when the opportunities come our way  
 to be healers of division and hurt,  
 to be peacemakers  
 and restorers,  
 we won't be found wanting.

Loving, personal Father,  
 We bring before you those people and issues that are closest to us  
 and that occupy our minds at this time ...  
 (personal and local intercessions could follow)

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<sup>3</sup> written by Rev Iain MacDonald. Posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website.  
<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Mighty, wonderful Father,  
 we bring before you people and issues from around our world,  
 including those we'll never know personally  
 but who remain our sisters and brothers in you ...  
 (national and global intercessions could follow)

Transforming, healing Father,  
 help us to make the light shine in dark places,  
 to make peace known in violent places,  
 and to bring hope to despondent places.  
 Our prayers, spoken and silent  
 are brought to you now  
 (along with these gifts that we freely give  
 and dedicate to the work of your Kingdom)  
 in the name of your Son, Jesus,  
 the healer, includer and redeemer,  
 forever.  
 Amen.

We pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

*The Lord's Prayer (spoken)*

**Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power,  
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Offering Prayer**

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.



### **Closing Song “Let All Things Now Living” #881**

1. **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, God’s 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.**
  
2. **God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”**

### **Benediction**

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

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

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

And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. Amen.

### **Commission**

Live in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen**