



*Give thanks
to the
Lord*

*because he
is good.*

—PSALM 106:1

† THANKSGIVING DAY †
November 25, 2021 (9:00 A.M.)
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Corcoran, Minnesota

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. (Psalm 136:1, 25; 147:9-11)"
(Luther's Small Catechism, Returning Thanks)

What Is Giving Thanks, Really?

Old Testament worship can be challenging for modern Christians. After all, *Leviticus* and *Psalms* sound so *different* from our worship. Yet, what I have learned is just how fascinating and similar these forms of worship are when we study them closely. Let's take thanksgiving as an example!

The Thank Offering (Lev. 7:12-15) was very different from the Sin Offerings that we often associate with OT worship. Thank offerings were voluntary and happened *whenever* the individual had reason to give thanks. An Israelite who had prayed to God for help and received what he prayed for made a special trip to the Temple and offered a Thank Offering... literally "giving thanks" to God.

The offering was an animal, given to the priest to kill and cook on the altar, **BUT**- unlike the sin offerings- this animal was not burned up on the altar. The meat was **given back** to the thankful Israelite and his family would feast!

See, that's not so foreign. God blesses us. We return a portion to Him, giving thanks. He says, "That's nice, now see what I will do with it." And He gives it back to us by the hands of His ministers to bless us more. Grace upon grace!

In addition to the holy meat, the thanks-giver brought bread, some of which the priest received and ate, the rest went back to the Israelite for the thanksgiving feast. And what is thanksgiving without singing? This offering also included songs of thanksgiving such as Psalm 30 or 116.

None of this has disappeared! In the Lord's Supper, the thank offerings we bring of bread and wine are given back to us, but better! Jesus gives His own flesh for meat, under the bread, and hosts this banquet for our blessing and celebration. No wonder the Church has called this a *Eucharist* (thanksgiving). *Thank the Lord and sing His praise, tell everyone what He has done.*

THE OFFICE OF MATINS

Prelude: Now Thank We All Our God (J.S. Bach)

Opening Hymn: *We Praise You, O God*

LSB 785

Opening Versicles

p. 219

Psalmody: *The Venite* (Ps. 95:1-7)

p. 220

Psalm 67 (Callahan)

(*Choir sings antiphon: vs. 7*)

¹May God be gracious to us and | bless us*

and make his face to shine up- | on us,

²that your way may be | known on earth,*

your saving power among all | nations.

³Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*

let all the peoples | praise you!

⁴Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,*

for you judge the peoples with equity

and guide the nations up- | on earth.

⁵Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*

let all the peoples | praise you!

⁶The earth has yielded its | increase;*

God, our God, shall | bless us.

⁷God shall | bless us;*

let all the ends of the earth | fear him!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning, *

is now and will be forever. | Amen

Office Hymn: *I Will Sing My Maker's Praises*

LSB 977

(*printed inside*)

977 I Will Sing My Maker's Praises



1 I will sing my Mak - er's prais - es And in Him most
 2 He so cared for and es - teemed me That the Son He
 3 All that for my soul is need - ful He with lov - ing
 4 As a fa - ther, ev - er yearn - ing, Long - ing to be
 5 Since there's nei - ther change nor cold - ness In God's love that



joy - ful be, For in all things I see trac - es
 loved so well He has giv - en to re - deem me
 care pro - vides, Nor of that is He un - heed - ful
 rec - on - ciled, Seeks the prod - i - gal's re - turn - ing,
 on me smiled, I now lift my hands in bold - ness,



Of His ten - der love for me. Noth - ing
 From the quench - less flames of hell. O my
 Which my bod - y needs be - sides. When my
 Lov - ing still the way - ward child, So my
 Com - ing to You as Your child. Grant me



else than love could move Him With such deep and
 Lord, the Spring of bless - ing, Could some - how my
 strength can - not a - vail me, When my pow'rs can
 man - y sins and er - rors Find a ten - der,
 grace, O God, I pray You, That I may with



ten - der care Ev - er - more to raise and bear
 fi - nite mind Of Your love the lim - it find
 do no more, Then will God His strength out - pour;
 par - d'ning God, Chas - t'ning frail - ty with His rod,
 all my might, All my life - time, day and night,



All who try to love and serve Him. All things else have
 Though my ef - forts were un - ceas - ing? All things else have
 In my need He will not fail me. All things else have
 Not in ven - geance with His ter - rors. All things else have
 Love and trust You and o - bey You And, when this brief



but their day; God's great love a - bides for aye.
but their day; God's great love a - bides for aye.
but their day; God's great love a - bides for aye.
life is o'er, Praise and love You ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 (Remember how the Lord has blessed you)

¹“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ²And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, 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. ⁴Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

St. Luke 17:11-19 (*Jesus heals ten lepers, but only one thanks Him*)

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” ¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”

¹⁹And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Common Responsory

p. 221

Sermon: *“Remember the Word of God and Give Thanks”*

Canticle: *We Praise You and Acknowledge You*

LSB 941

Offering: For the Fruit of All Creation (Hopson)

(Choir sings)

Kyrie & Closing Prayers

p. 227

Closing Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God*

LSB 895

Postlude: Now Thank We All Our God (Johnson)

Our thanks to those who serve this day:

Preacher: Pr. Matthew V. Moss

Organist: Dr. Katie Moss

Choir: St. John's Adult Choir

Acolyte: Dalton Holovnia

Worship Assistant: Andrew Heinen