

Service for Thanksgiving Eve, November 25, 2020 – Provided via Elim’s website, Email, and Facebook

Be Thankful
Be Grateful



A THANKSGIVING SERVICE OF LESSONS AND HYMNS

A warm welcome today to our Elim family and friends as we gather virtually on this Thanksgiving Eve to worship the God of love and give thanks for all we are and all we have.

Greeting

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Gathering Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

Text: Folliott Pierpoint

Tune: Conrad Kocher

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1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony,
linking sense to sound and sight;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

5 For thy church, that evermore
lifting holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love;

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

6 For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Old Testament Reading

Tonight's Old Testament lesson is from Deuteronomy, the 8th Chapter.

⁷For 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, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a 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. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. (Deuteronomy 8:7-10)

This ends the Old Testament lesson.

The Psalm

This reading is from the 65th Chapter or the Book of Psalms.

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.

³Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing. (Psalm 65:1-4, 11-13)

This ends the Psalm.

New Testament Reading

The New Testament reading is from the book of 2nd Corinthians, the 9th Chapter.

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰He 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. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2nd Corinthians 9:6-15)

This ends the New Testament reading.

Hymn

Give Thanks

Text and Tune: Don Moen

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Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

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"

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"

Give thanks with a grateful heart
 Give thanks to the Holy One
 Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

Give thanks
 Give thanks
 Give thanks.



The Gospel

The Gospel for today is from the 17th Chapter of Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, 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 made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:11-19)

Word of God. Word of life. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Thanksgiving blessings to you, on the eve of a holiday that reminds us of the first Thanksgiving, early in the history of our nation. It is also a time for us to be grateful for all we have been given. But in reality, we should be thankful all the time.

About a month ago, I was blessed to have been able to attend a conference called *You Matter*. The purpose of this time with colleagues, preachers, and musicians from several Christian denominations was to let all know they are valued, they are important, and they matter. During this time of a global pandemic, all of us, church workers, congregation members, and all people, may feel lonely and unappreciated during this time of quarantine and separation. I want you all to know I value each of you. In each of your faces, I see Jesus' image. Giving thanks for all of you and loving you with the love Jesus gives so we may share that precious love with others, is part of the life I am grateful to live.

Thankful and grateful – two different words that mean nearly the same thing. But there's one thing that strikes me with these two words: one can say, "I'm thankful for pizza," or "thanks for the ride to school," or "thank you for the beautiful day today." It's good to be thankful. It's good to say thank you. No one will argue with that line of thinking. In fact, our kids when they were little and our granddaughters, occasionally needed, or need, to be reminded to say thank you when someone did or does

something nice or helpful for them. Being appreciative is necessary, and thank yous are two very important words.

Then there's that word grateful. Grateful. It means basically the same thing as thankful or thank you, but something feels different when you say or hear grateful. That word feels more...feels more genuine, deeper, more heartfelt than even those important words thank you.

In response to the generosity God shows for all, we have a responsibility for others who are less fortunate. Just as Paul urges the Christians in Corinth to give to the needy church in Jerusalem, we are to give to the needy of this day and age. We are fed in so many ways by God. And because God gives to us and feeds us, we are to give to and feed others. To put this another way; we can know, without a doubt, that God does great things for us. God has created all things and provides for us for all our lives. Because of God's generosity, we can be grateful and joyful. So we ask God to strengthen us to be aware and act, so the world's needs are being satisfied.

Now, back to the conference...the *You Matter* conference. A Baptist preacher (his denomination doesn't matter) prayed a meaningful, inspiring prayer which spoke volumes to me. Sharing this prayer with you, it is my hope that when you feel down, lonely, or anything else not optimal, you can feel within your the words of this prayer and know that you matter. Also, know that this prayer will allow you to be grateful...grateful for everything given and done for you. Here is the prayer:

*Be grateful to God, because God has created you and given you life.
 Be grateful to Jesus, because Jesus was crucified, died, and rose again to rescue you from sin and eternal death.
 Be grateful to the Holy Spirit, because the Spirit is above you, below you, and is always surrounding you.
 Be grateful to your family and friends, because your family and friends love you.
 Be grateful to your church and congregation, because they need you and support you, and you need them and support them. Amen.*



Sermon Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

Text: Martin Rinkhart, Catherine Winkworth

Tune: Johann Crüger

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1 Now thank we all our God
 with heart and hands and voices,
 who wondrous things has done,
 in whom God's world rejoices,
 who from our mother's arms
 has 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 all with 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
who reigns in highest heaven,
the Father and the Son
and Spirit now be given,
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
for thus it was, is now
and shall be evermore.

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith in the one true holy and Triune God.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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 Prayer

As we gather here together tonight, differently than we've ever gathered for Thanksgiving before, hear our prayers praising you for all you've done, all you are doing, and all you continue to do in this world. You are the God of abundance, and you have given us more than we could ever need. You provide us with food, shelter, clothes, family and friends, forgiveness of our sins, and so much more, even though we surely do not deserve your mercy, grace, and generosity.

With all we've been given, create in us grateful hearts and hearts generous enough to share with the stranger, the neglected, the hungry, and homeless. Open our hearts and hands to reflect the love you give to all. May all people be grateful, say thank you, and willingly accept whatever you see that we need.

In your Son's holy name, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As we have been gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together the prayer we have been taught.

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed by 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. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

Text: Katherine K. Davis

Tune: Welsh folk tune

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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 guided 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.

'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.

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
'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

Sending

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



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