



Howard Terpning, "Old Country Buffet - The Feast"

**Mass of Thanksgiving, a Harvest Celebration
November 27, 2025**

Welcome

*We gather in gratitude...
for the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen
splendors. For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and
hardships shared from birth until our dying.*

Opening Song "Gather Us In" Haugen

Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,

Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a myst'ry,
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

KYRIE - Knowing God's Loving Kindness

Loving God, we live in a culture of plenty but do not share enough.

Make us generous like you.

Jesus the Christ, we forget your example of giving thanks, especially in difficult times.

Grant us grateful hearts.

Loving God, we bring You gifts at the altar when we are not reconciled with our siblings.

Make us forgiving like You.

ALL: May the God who harvests the bounty from our souls, have compassion for us, forgive us, and nurture our capacity for good.

Opening Prayer

Holy Giver of Life, we give thanks for ancient faith stories passed on through the years, made new with each new generation. We give thanks for new faith stories that we are living. We give thanks for faith stories yet to be told. Open our ears to hear your timeless Wisdom in them all, we pray...

First Reading

Ben Sirach 50:22-24

A Reading from the Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach/Ecclesiasticus)

And now, bless the God of all,
Who has done wondrous things on Earth.
Bless God Who fosters people's growth
from their mother's womb.
Bless God whose heart's desire is for us, for all people!

May God grant you joy of heart.
May peace abide among you, and in you.
May God's goodness be known everywhere.
As God endures, may we endure.
May God's goodness liberate us to be God's goodness
in our days, for all days.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 100:1-5 <i>Merrill with minor adaptation</i>

Our Psalm response is: Alleluia! Amen!
R: Alleluia! Amen!

Sing a joyful noise to the Beloved, all the earth!
All peoples of Earth,
serve Love with a glad heart!
Join hands in the great Dance of Life!
R: Alleluia! Amen!

Know that the Beloved of your heart is the Divine Presence!
Love created us! We all belong to a Cosmic God!
We are born to be loving expressions
in the whole, holy story of the Universe.
R: Alleluia! Amen!

Open the gates of your heart with gratitude!
Enter Love's court with praise!
Give thanks to the Beloved!
Bless Love's holy Name!
R: Alleluia! Amen!

God is good, and God is Love.
Love endures in your hearts, forever.
With faith, truth, joy,
now and in all that is to come, we proclaim:
Alleluia! Amen!
R: Alleluia! Amen!

Alleluia! Amen!

Second Reading

<i>Philippians 4:4-7</i>

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Rejoice in Christ always! Again, I say it, “Rejoice!” Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God is near. Dismiss anxiety from your minds. In everything, through prayer and petition, give thanks, and make your requests known to God. And the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

<i>Celtic</i>

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

<i>John 6:1-15</i>

God is with you. ***And also with you.***

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to John.

Glory to You, O God.

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias). A large crowd followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Jesus went up a mountainside and there sat down with his disciples. The Passover Festival was near.

When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where can we buy enough food for these people to eat?” Jesus asked this only to test Philip. He already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, “Two hundred days’ wages worth of food would not be enough for each to have even one bite!”

Another of Jesus’ disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a child with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but what good are these for so many?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was a great deal of grass in that place. They sat down (more than five thousand families were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated, who ate as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

When they all had had their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So, they gathered the leftovers and filled twelve wicker baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat.

When the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that the crowd was about to take him by force and make him king, he withdrew again up the mountainside, alone.

The Gospel of God.
Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.

Homily & Sharing of Gratitude
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After a brief reflection, you will be invited to share your gratitude and to voice any other petitions on your hearts this day.

Response: *In all things, we give thanks.*

Closing Prayer: Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address

We will close our sharing time with an adapted and translated litany of thanksgiving, used by the six nations of the Haudenosaunee (known to us as the Iroquois peoples). They used it to open and close major gatherings or meetings. The prayer was also sometimes used individually at the beginning or end of the day. May we, too, carry a spirit of thanksgiving every day.

Lector: Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other and to all...

Our response is: *We send our greetings and gratitude.*

R: *We send our greeting and gratitude.*

We thank our Mother Earth, for she gives us all we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her.

R: *We send our greeting and gratitude.*

We thank the Waters of the world for quenching our thirst. Water is life. We know its power in many forms: waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, lakes and bays, rivers and oceans.

R: *We send our greeting and gratitude.*

We thank the Fish, who cleanse and purify waters. We are grateful we can still find pure water. They also give themselves to us as food.

R: *We send our greeting and gratitude.*

We thank Wild Plants and Garden Plants and Trees. Their stems, trunks, and roots channel life, and are used for shelter, tools, baskets, and food. Their leaves, grains, vegetables, beans, fruits, and berries sustain many life forms.

R: *We send our greeting and gratitude.*

We thank the Medicinal Herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us.

R: *We send our greeting and gratitude.*

We thank all Animal life. They have many things to teach us. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food, shelter, and clothing. We are glad they are still here. We hope that it will always be so.

R: We send our greeting and gratitude.

We thank the Birds who fly over our heads, who sing beautiful songs, who bring us joy.

R: We send our greeting and gratitude.

We are thankful for the Winds. We hear their movement. They refresh us and purify our air. They bring us messages and strength from each of the four directions they come.

R: We send our greeting and gratitude.

We thank the Cosmos, the stars and the planets, who guide us beyond ourselves and guide us back to ourselves.

R: We send our greeting and gratitude.

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each to send greetings and thanks in their own way. We take a moment of silence.

[Silence]

For the strength and beauty of diverse Native cultures; for the traditions that give structure and meaning; that gave them the courage and faith to endure; may we always remember and respect those on whose land we work, play, and live.

R: We send our greeting and gratitude.

Offertory Song – “Give Thanks”	<i>Smith</i>
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Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because God's given
holy bread and wine.

And now, let it be that all are blessed
let us all bless whom we meet
because of love that dwells within our hearts.

Our Eucharist

Blessed are You, God of all creation. In the earth was the seed, in the seed was the shoot, in the shoot was the stalk, in the stalk was the grain, in the grain was the bread, and life was in the bread; and the bread will be for us the Body of Christ.

[R] Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are You, God of all creation. In the earth was the seed, in the seed was the vine, in the vine was the grape, in the grape was the wine, and life was in the wine; and the wine will be our spiritual drink. **[R] *Blessed be God forever.***

Pray, friends, that our work, our play, our worship and our very lives be pleasing to God, the Source of Life. **[R] *Accept our gifts for the good of all.***

Prayer with our Gifts

Eucharist is the Greek word for Thanksgiving; Thanksgiving is the English word for Eucharist. And so, today let this eucharist itself be our prayer of thanksgiving...

Eucharistic Prayer

God dwells in you.

And also in you.

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

We open our hearts to God and to one another.

Presider

Abundant God, You sang creation into being. The heavens rang out. Mountains reached up, valleys reached deep and wide. Trees bore fruit, their branches clapped their hands. Waters roared. Green pastures rippled in sweeping winds. Wonder was born.

Voice 1

Crafted in Your image, You satisfy us with Earth's bounty and Your grace. With those who throughout history joined in creation's chorus, we now sing out in gratitude, praising Your name:

Sanctus [Sung]. *Author: Heber – Tune Nicea*

Holy, holy, holy! O Bless-ed Mystery!

***All thy works do praise thy name,
in earth, and sky, and sea;***

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God still revealing, Hosannas rise to Thee.

Voice 2

How marvelous is Your presence, O God, in all Creation! Fill us with awe and wonder. Open our hearts to know Your presence in all who love and serve You, and in those who don't. Help us to work together to build Your kin-dom on Earth.

Voice 3

You sent us Jesus in whom Your fullness was pleased to dwell. You sent him to show us the way of faith, hope, and love. When we rejected him, and put him to death, You raised him up to be a new and living "Temple", Your holy presence throughout the Cosmos.

[Please extend your hand toward the bread and wine.]

Presider

And so we praise You through Jesus. We recognize Your Spirit of unity alive and at work in this bread and wine, and in us. As we remember Jesus and his final meal, may this bread and wine be for us the body of Christ. We remember that:

ALL...on the night when Jesus was betrayed, while at supper with his friends, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying: "Take this, all of you and eat. This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

[Pause]

In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine. When he had given thanks, he gave the cup to his friends, saying: "Take this all of you and drink. This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith *[Sung]*

We remember You. We remember You. Jesus who loved, lived and died; Rising in our hearts.
Voice 4

Remember all leaders everywhere, secular and religious. Remember all who seek You with a sincere heart. Remember all who suffer. Remember all who have died, whose faith is known to You alone. In Your goodness, grant us the joy of Your presence in the company of all the saints, for it is...

*Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of Sophia Spirit,
all glory and honor are Yours, forever and ever.*

The Great Amen <i>[Sung]</i> <i>Traditional</i>
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Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen!

Prayer of Jesus

Throughout the millennia, the prayer of Jesus, often called the "Our Father," has been translated and rendered in many, different ways. Today, we offer this contemporary recited version from the New Zealand Book of Prayer. Please feel free to speak the prayer in the language and version of your choice.

*Eternal Spirit,
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name
echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of Earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,*

*forgive us.
In times of temptation and test,
spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory
of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.*

Sign of Peace

May the peace of the Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another – and the whole world – God’s peace.

Lamb of God [Sung]

*Jesus Christ, You call us to the Gospel of peace,
O Jesus the Christ.
Bread of Life, You call us to the Gospel of love,
O Bread of Life.
Emmanuel, You call us to the Gospel of hope,
grant us peace.*

This is God’s holy bread for God’s holy people.
We are blessed to share in this communion.

This is God’s table, not ours. All are truly welcome here. Christ is present whenever and wherever we are.
May all who share in this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds.

Communion Song – Taizé

"Ubi Caritas"

Ubi caritas, et a-mor. Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity; God will dwell in you.

"Confitemini Domino" (Give Thanks to God)

(Note that different words are used in the English version of the chant.)

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You alone, O God, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
alleluia.*

Prayer After Communion

We are grateful... For the young, who are our future; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values; for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows. And we are grateful...For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing, we pray...

Closing Blessing

Let the church say... *Amen.*

Sending Forth

This Eucharist has ended.
The Feast of Thanksgiving is begun.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Song – “Glory and Praise to Our God” Schutte
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*Glory and praise to You, God,
who alone gives light to our days.
Many are the blessings You bear
to those who trust in Your name.*

We, the children, belov'd, of God,
who built the valleys and plains,
Praise the wonders that God has done
in ev'ry heart that sings. **(R)**

Ev'ry moment of ev'ry day
our God is waiting to save,
Always ready to seek the lost,
to answer those who pray. **(R)**

*We are grateful you joined us in worship.
May the joy of thanksgiving be yours.*