

Service of Thanksgiving

CALL TO WORSHIP

EXHORTATION TO PRAYER

Dearly beloved, we have gathered together on this day of thanksgiving. Although our civil government has set aside this day as a National Thanksgiving Day, the roots of services of prayer and thanksgiving are as old as the Reformation itself. Our Reformed, Protestant forefathers set aside days of celebration, thanksgiving, prayer, and reflection upon the goodness of God to us. As the *Westminster Confession of Faith* says, "...thanksgivings upon special occasions... are, in their several times and seasons, to be used in an holy and religious manner." (21.5). This morning we follow that venerable tradition in order "to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at [the Lord's hands], to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of heavenly grace" (*Book of Common Prayer*, 1552):

*PRAYER FOR THE NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY—Proposed Psalter Hymnal

Our Sovereign God, who created all things for your pleasure and who gives to all life, breath, and every good thing, we praise you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. For rain and sunshine, in abundance and in lack, we acknowledge that our times are in your hands. You supply all of your creatures with your good gifts: the just and the unjust alike. Nevertheless, we especially give you praise for the surpassing greatness of your saving grace that you have shown to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. For our election in him before the foundation of the world; for our redemption by him in his life, death, and resurrection; for our effectual calling, justification, sanctification, and all of the blessings of our union with him, we give you our heartfelt thanks. And we look with great anticipation toward that day when you will raise us to life everlasting, glorified and confirmed in righteousness, so that we may sing your praises without the defilement of our present weaknesses, distractions, and sins. As you have served us with these gifts, we ask that you would give us grateful hearts so that through us you may serve our neighbors. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying,

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*GOD'S GREETING

* *We Praise Thee, O God* (313)

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* *We Praise Thee, O God* (313)

OLD TESTAMENT READING—Nehemiah 12:27-31, 38-40, 43-47

Now with Joyful Exultation (184:1-3)

PSALTER READING—Psalm 106

Whole-hearted Thanksgiving to Thee I Will Bring (14)

NEW TESTAMENT READING—Philippians 4:4-7

¶ At this time the congregation is invited to offer reasons for thanks to the Lord

MORNING PRAYER

OFFERING—General Fund

SERMON

PRAYER

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, you unworthy servants, do give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for your inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech you, give us that due sense of all your mercies, that our hearts may be sincerely thankful; and that we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

What Shall I Render to the Lord (230)

*BENEDICTION

OLD TESTAMENT READING—Nehemiah 12:27-31, 38-40, 43-47

Now with Joyful Exultation (184:1-3)

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