

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.” Psalm 67:1-3.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

While I write this article I can look outside and take note of the changes happening in the natural world. The leaves on trees continue to that transition from deep green to yellows, golds and reds. Some branches are showing their skeleton structure already stripped of their foliage. The air is feeling cooler and more crisp each morning. Birds are flocking and continuing their migration southward. Squirrels and mice are preparing winter dens or seeking warmer environments. Each sign is a reminder to us about what is coming. It is a time for us to prepare also. Our memory helps us to prepare for the coming months.

An important teaching that is stressed in the scriptures is the act of Remembrance. God commanded Moses to institute the Passover celebration for the Jewish people – it would be an annual act of remembrance. God wanted to ensure that they remembered to whom they belonged and the place from which they came. God’s people were also instructed to participate in the harvest Thanksgiving ritual. That religious service would be a constant reminder performed annually that the harvest they received was a gift from their Creator. Jesus told the disciples to participate in the Communion meal, so that they would remember him and what his offering means for us. Remembrance is a tool in the teaching paradigm. It is a means of converting the common into the special.

Remembrance is also a way to convert our momentary blessing into a life-long thanksgiving. Remembrance draws upon our experiences from the past and helps us to consider our present and have hope into our future.

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a time for us to take inventory of our blessings. It is a time to reflect and remember that everything we have is a gift received from our God. Thanksgiving is a celebration of hopefulness. We can remember and acknowledge that we are not alone in this journey through life. We are not abandoned to sin and the devil. We have been brought into a covenant relationship – a relationship based on the deepest commitment to loving and communion.

A heart that is filled with thanksgiving cannot help but burst into praise. The joy that wells up within a soul that is thankful rejoices always.

The signs we receive from Nature in these days remind about what is to come and to prepare. We can remember and know that God is still with us. God has promised to bless us and make his face to shine upon us. God will bless our hearts with his peace.

A blessed Thanksgiving.

In Christ forever,
Pastor Kevin.