THANKSGIVING EVE

INTRODUCTION

Today's readings reflect two of the strains that go into the celebration of a national day of thanksgiving: gratitude for abundant harvest (Joel) and civic prayer for a peaceable common life (1 Timothy). The core meaning of Thanksgiving for many of us—a home feast for extended family and friends—is not reflected in the readings; but it is reflected weekly in the church's meal of thanksgiving (eucharist). What we wish for both these thanksgiving meals is that they will go deeper than celebration of one another and our own blessings, to recognize in our true Host one who wants everyone brought to the table.

PRELUDE Edie Goodwin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



* GREETING

- P Christ has called us to this place, gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit
- C We are followers of Christ who seek to hear the Word, live the Word, and share the Word.
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS

Jeyda Elaine Alderton

Nolan Michael Phillips

Audrey Bel Clanton

Addilyn Elizabeth Schneider

Macy Marie Olson

Evan Richard Solon

Isaac Bruce Petersen

Kira Lin Wilson

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir

FIRST READING: Joel 2:21-27

The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when God will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.

Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.
 ²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people including rulers. We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For

there is one God;

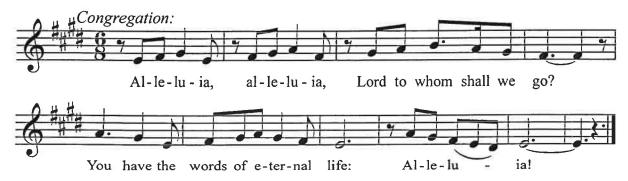
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

* GOSPEL VERSE



- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.
- C Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!

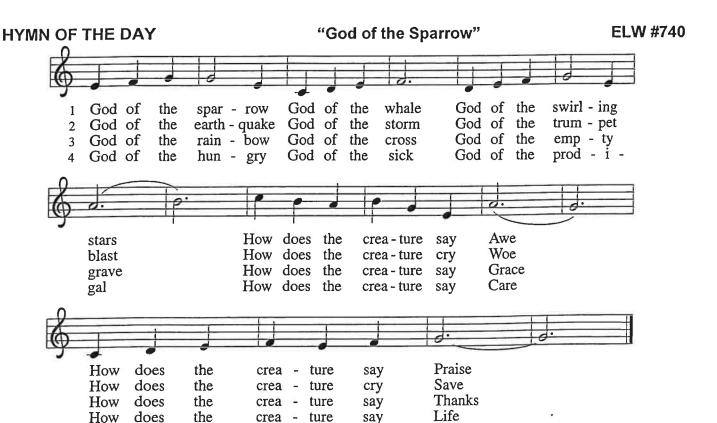
GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.

[Jesus said,] ²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

SERMON Pr. Jon



- God of the neighbor God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace
- 6 God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text © 1983 Concordin Publishing House Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. ow do your children say Home

ROEDER

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* THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- P Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

THE OFFERING



* THE OFFERTORY

"Create In Me"

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Welcome to the Feast of Holy Communion. (Gluten free wafers available, ask the Pastors) We believe that in the sacrament Holy Communion, the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. All who trust in Jesus and call upon his name as Lord are invited to receive Holy Communion. Guests who are with us, who regularly commune in their home congregations, are also welcome. Children who have not yet been instructed in receiving the sacrament are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory, forever
 and ever. Amen

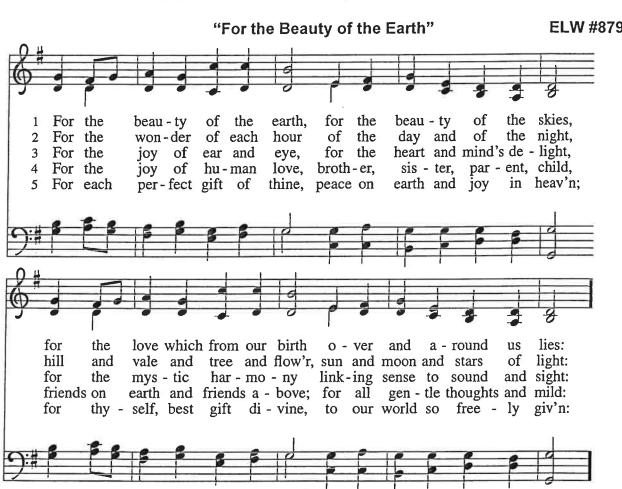
* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

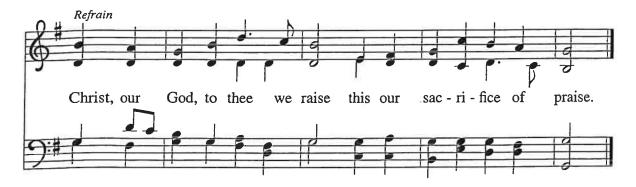
- P The gifts of God for the people of God.
- C I am not worthy to receive you, Lord; but only say the Word and I shall be healed.

* LAMB OF GOD









Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

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- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of your Word. Now send us out in service to the world and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

* BLESSING

- P The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C Amen





Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt. Music: Welsh folk tune
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* DISMISSAL

- P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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