



Thanksgiving
Service

Annual Akron Community Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 26, 2020

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Grace and Peace to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sadly, with the well-being of all in mind, the West Akron Churches that traditionally gather for worship on Thanksgiving Day will not do so this year of the pandemic. That does not mean, however, that we are not thankful! If anything, the importance of good health, flourishing relationships, a peace-filled country and a world where needs are met is even more significant. These are significant reasons for gratitude.

Welcome, then, as we gather in homes, with loved ones or alone, thankful for “the gift of eyes to see the world; the gift of mind to feel at home in one’s life; for the waves of possibility breaking on the shore of dawn; for the harvest of the past that awaits hunger and all the furtherings this day will bring.” (From “On Waking” by John O’Donohue)

Pastor Jean M. Hansen
Faith Lutheran Church, Fairlawn

The Collect

Almighty God, who hast in all ages showed forth Thy power in the protection of every nation and people faithfully professing thy holy and eternal Truth, and putting their sure trust in Thee; We yield Thee our unfeigned thanks and praise for all Thy public mercies, and more especially for those now recently vouchsafed to this Nation, in its need; Wherefore not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be ascribed all honor and glory, in all Churches of the Saints, from generation to generation: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: “My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the LORD brought

us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me.” Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

Psalm 100

- 1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

The Gospel: John 6: 25-35

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Thanksgiving Litany

Officiant: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

People: *God's love is everlasting.*

Officiant: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

People: *Let us come to God with thanksgiving.*

Officiant: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors;

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying.

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement.

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love;

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For those who are not married; for grace and contentment in all life's circumstances, remembering always the sovereignty and goodness of our Lord.

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures;

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies;

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values; for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows;

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experiences; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing;

People: *Thank you, O Lord our God.*

Officiant: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for preserving us in temptation and danger;

People: Thank you, O Lord our God.

Officiant: For the church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord;

People: We praise you, gracious God.

Officiant: For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and bring us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship;

People: We praise you, Almighty God.

Officiant: Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him;

People: We thank you and praise you Holy and Eternal God, for your goodness and mercy to us.

Officiant: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

People: God's love is everlasting.

Benediction

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.