

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah ² that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. ⁷ God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: WS #793

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

1. Sing to the Lord of harvest; Sing songs of love and praise.
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.
2. God makes the clouds rain goodness; The deserts bloom and spring.
The hills leap up in gladness; The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with His fullness, All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.
3. Bring to this sacred altar The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him Who gave His life for all.

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT

Ps. 65

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion, and to You shall vows be performed.
- C** O You who hear prayer, to You shall all flesh come.
- P** When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.
- C** Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts!

P We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple!

C By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

P The one who by His strength established the mountains, being girded with might;

C Who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples, so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at Your signs.

P You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy. You visit the earth and water it;

C You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it.

P You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

C You crown the year with your bounty; Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

P The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

C The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

P Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion, and to You shall vows be performed.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P Seeing all that the Lord had done for us, let us confess our sins before Him and plead for His mercy.

C Lord God we fall before You in sorrow. Though You have given us many blessings, we so often fail to notice them much less give thanks for them. You bless us with freedom and safety, and we take it for granted. You pour out material blessings upon us, and we devour them, always looking for more, never content with what You have given. We care more about the gifts than we do about You, the Giver. Worst of all Lord, we let the things of this world and our desire for them obscure the most wonderful gift You have given – forgiveness through the death of Your Son. Forgive us for our thoughtless thanklessness, and retune our hearts to sing Your grace. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Martin Luther on Thanksgiving “Ah, How Cold and Unappreciative Even Christians Are!

“When we hear that Christ has redeemed us with His blood, we are moved precisely as much as a dunce is moved when he hears that a hen has laid an egg. What kind of marvel is this? Says he; indeed, that happens every day. There is also no joy, comfort, thanks or wonderment when people hear of Christ’s suffering. Oh, that is nothing new! Who does not know that? I have known it well for a long time. And so the dear Christ with His precious blood and His immeasurable works of wonder must be considered a trifling matter...In a word, in eternity we shall not be able to marvel enough at the work of Christ and to study it sufficiently; but here we stocks and stones pay precisely as much attention to it when we hear about it as we do to the falling of a rotten apple from a tree. We yawn and say: Well, have we not often seen a rotten apple fall from a tree?

“I exhort you to hear this message with joy and delight and to accept it with thanks and sincerely to pray that Lord our God to give you a strong faith so that you may keep this teaching. Then the fruit will certainly follow in that you will from day to day become more humble, obedient, friendly, chaste, and pious. For it is the manner and nature of this teaching to make chaste, obedient, pious people. But those who do not want to accept the Gospel with love become seven times worse than they were before they accepted this teaching. One notices this everywhere. Therefore, be on your guard, for the little hour in which God will punish such ingratitude will certainly not fail to come. What the world has earned thereby will then appear.”

So many reasons to be thankful! God has blessed us with many gifts: gifts of giving and sustaining our physical lives certainly, but also gifts of securing our deliverance from sin, death and the devil, and bestowing rich spiritual blessings on us as His adopted children. Some of these blessings of God may be more obvious than others. At times we only see or appreciate the physical gifts. When we are in poor health, a financial crisis, or short in some other “First Article” blessing, we become frustrated or even angry with God, instead of looking at those additional gifts from God which are much harder to see, but are of much greater value. May God teach us to see that all that we have is from His hand, and that the gifts that we truly cannot live without are the very ones He secured for us and promised to us eternally through His Son!

Church Decorating will take place tomorrow morning at 10 am. If you are able to help with getting the church ready for the Advent/Christmas season, please take some time to drop by church and help out. Thanks!

P Rejoice people loved by God! For your Father has heard your prayer. He has provided a sacrifice; you will not die. By the blood of Jesus Christ, all your sins have been washed away. As a minister of our Lord, according to His command and by His authority, all sins of thought and word and deed, your thanklessness and your selfishness, I forgive in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #568

“We Praise Thee, O God”

- 1. We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
We lay it before Thee, We kneel and adore Thee,
We bless Thy holy name, glad praises we sing.**
- 2. We worship Thee, God of our fathers, we bless Thee;
Through life's storm and tempest our Guide hast Thou been;
When perils o'ertake us, Escape Thou wilt make us,
And with Thy help, O Lord, our battles we win.**
- 3. With voices united our praises we offer,
To Thee, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.
Thy strong arm will guide us, Our God is beside us,
To Thee, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Deuteronomy 8:1-10 “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and

springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

EPISTLE READING – Philippians 4:6-7, 11-13 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. . . . ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

GOSPEL READING – Luke 17:11-19 On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

HYMN: WS #792 "Let All Things Now Living"

1. Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

SERMON – Job 2:9-10 ⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Thanks...for Nothing???

HYMN: LSB #686:1-3 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

HYMN: TLH #36:1,3 "Now Thank We All Our God"

1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.
3. All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven:
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.