

Seven-Thirty O'Clock
Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 24, 2021

God is Still Speaking... *"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."*

- Melody Beattie

GATHERING AND WELCOME

PRELUDE "Now Thank We All Our God"

C. Callahan

*SOLEMN DECLARATION AND SUNG AMEN

*CALL TO WORSHIP

President Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Declaration

*HYMN #797 (Green) "Come, Ye Thankful People Come"

*UNISON PRAYER

Providing God, the eyes of all look to you in hope, and you provide all we need. You open your hand and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. We turn to you again, longing to be filled – to eat of the Bread of Life, to drink from the Cup of Salvation, and to taste your goodness and live. May the time we spend together in your presence nourish our hearts and minds; may it strengthen our relationship with you as we seek to renew our commitment to live in this world as your faithful disciples. For you alone are our God, the source and sustainer of life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Old Testament Joel 2: 21 – 27

Hymn #793 "For the Beauty of the Earth" (vv. 1, 3, 5)

New Testament 1 Timothy 2: 1 – 7

Hymn #713 "Seek Ye First"

*Gospel Matthew 6: 25 – 33

*THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (Based on Psalm 107: 4 – 9, 29 – 32. Adapted from the African American Lectionary for Thanksgiving Day) (See Insert)

HYMN #170 (Green) "Give Thanks"

COMMUNION HOMILY

*PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND DOXOLOGY

*ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION (See Insert)

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER - using debts and debtors

*AGNUS DEI (#525, red hymnal)

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us; O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us; O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, at this table you graciously feed us with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Eternal Salvation. May we who have received these gifts be strengthened in your service; may we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth in our lives; may we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom and come to worship you with all your saints forever. We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

*HYMN #796 (Green) "In Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him"

*SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Smith/Robert

*Please stand as you are able

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LET US ALL
Give Thanks

Be thankful
unto him, and
bless his name.
For the Lord is
good.

—Psalm 100:4-5



Order for Holy Communion

* Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord of blessings be with you.

The Lord be with you, also.

Be glad and rejoice, God's people, lifting your hearts to the restorer of lives.

We offer them to the God who clothes us in grace.

People of God, come to the Table where you shall eat and be satisfied.

With shouts of joy, we gather to praise the name of God!

Your mouth was filled with laughter, God of our every moment, as you sang creation into being. The heavens rang with shouts of joy, as fruit-bearing trees sprang up, as green pastures rippled with wonder. Crafted in your image, you would satisfy us with the bounty of grace, but we chose the destroyer, death, hanging out with the life-cutter, sin.

Prophets and psalmists were sent by you, longing to restore us to your side, but we put their words to shame. So that everyone might be saved, Jesus came to be with us, herald of your grace, bringer of your truth.

With those who lifted thanks by crossed rivers, with those who offered gratitude for simple gifts, we join our voice in praising your name:

* Seraphic Hymn (#522, red hymnal)

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full,
are full of the majesty of Thy Glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna
in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!*

Holy are you, Restorer of broken lives, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Mediator of salvation. Seeing the nightmare of our lives, he became one of us, so we might see the dreams you have for us.

Knowing how our hearts overflowed with fear, bitterness, and worries, he came with peace and comfort. Teaching that the body is more than sin, that life is more than death, he became our path to salvation by rising from the grave.

As we give thanks for his life and death, as we shout with joy for his resurrection, we speak of that mystery we call faith:

Christ died, the righteousness for all.

Christ was raised, the resurrection for all.

Christ will return, the fulfillment for all.

Pour out your Spirit doing great things with the bread and the cup. Empty, we will be filled with the plenty of your grace, the broken bread strengthening us so we might bring healing to a world shattered by violence and despair. Longing for hope, we shall be satisfied with the cup of blessing and hope, our lives overflowing with your love and compassion, pouring ourselves out for the poor and marginalized of our time.

And when all our worrying hours have ended, when we are clothed in your mercy forever, we will gather with our sisters and brothers, our mouths filled with laughter, our hearts echoing glad songs of joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

Joel 2:21-27

"Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Fear not, you beasts 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.

"Be glad, O children of Zion, 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 latter rain, as before.

"The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.

"You 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. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires

all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Matthew 6:25-33

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look 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? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

As the author of the Psalm praises God, we, too, make the same declaration of praise. Living as believers, we must always acknowledge the delivering power of God.

For all of God's blessings towards us, we are thankful. We thank the Lord for providing steadfast love towards humanity.

Yielding a persistent declaration of thanksgiving while placing our trust in God will yield an attitude of gratitude. Deliverance is available for all no matter what occurs in our lives.

For all of God's blessings towards us, we are thankful. We thank the Lord for providing steadfast love towards humanity.

While some wander through the circumstances of life without a compass, others wander needing strength and nourishment. We acknowledge their issues knowing that deliverance is available.

For all of God's blessings towards us, we are thankful. We thank the Lord for providing steadfast love towards humanity.

We must learn how to cry out to the Lord during times of trouble, knowing that God can deliver us all from our distress.

For all of God's blessings towards us, we are thankful. We thank the Lord for providing steadfast love towards humanity.

During stormy weather, God can and will make the storm be still and calm the waves of the sea, yielding a haven of rest.

For all of God's blessings towards us, we are thankful. We thank the Lord for providing steadfast love towards humanity.

May all in the congregation of the people praise God, for our hunger and thirst are satisfied with good things.

For all of God's blessings towards us, we are thankful. We thank the Lord for providing steadfast love towards humanity.

To live in a spirit of true thankfulness for what God has done.

We will become active in God's Kingdom here on earth and not merely spectators. We will extend a helping hand to provide nourishment of body, soul, and spirit to those in need.

Let us yield a continuous declaration of thanksgiving and put feet to our collective prayers.

Bind us together, Lord! Have mercy upon us, and teach us how to employ your example of love everywhere we go. Amen.