

MEDITATION AND PRAISE ON THANKSGIVING EVE

∞ The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**. ∞

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer (Hymn 609)

**1 We praise you, O God,
our Redeemer, Creator!
In grateful devotion
our tribute we bring;
We lay it before you;
we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name;
glad praises we sing.**

**2 We worship you,
God of our fathers; we bless you.
Through trial and tempest
our guide you have been;
When perils o'ertake us,
you will not forsake us,
And with your help,
O Lord, our battles we win.**

**3 With voices united
our praises we offer;
To you, great Jehovah,
glad anthems we raise.
Your strong arm will guide us;
our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer,
fore'er be praise!**

In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Psalm 150

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his
mighty heavens.

Praise the LORD.

Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for
his surpassing greatness.

Praise the LORD.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with tambourine and dancing,

The congregation sings: (Hymn 617)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**praise him with the strings and flute,
praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.**

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.

Lord God, unite our voices with the praise of all
creation, that we may worthily magnify Your
excellent greatness; through Your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness; come
before Him with joyful songs.**

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.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His
courts with praise;

Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

The congregation sings: (Hymn 623, st. 1,2,3,5)

**O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
and aid my tongue to bless his name
whose favors are divine.**

**O bless the Lord, my soul,
nor let his mercies lie
forgotten in unthankfulness
and without praises die.**

For the LORD is good and His love endures
forever;

**His faithfulness continues through all
generations.**

God our Father, You made us, and we belong to
You. Keep us mindful of Your goodness that
with thankful hearts we may sing Your praise
Who alone is worthy of honor and glory
together with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**3 'Tis he forgives your sins,
'tis he relieves your pain,
'tis he that heals your sicknesses
and makes you young again.**

**4 His wondrous works and ways
he made by Moses known
but sent the world his truth and grace
by his beloved Son.**

Psalm 145:8-17 and commentary

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.

They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,

so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.

The congregation sings: (Hymn 505)

**1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**5 For Thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n,
for that great, great love of Thine
peace on earth and joy in heav'n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.

You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.

Loving Father, you are faithful in your promises
and tender in your compassion. Hear the cries
of all who call on you for mercy, and satisfy
their needs according to your gracious purpose;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.

**3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent child,
friends on earth, and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Genesis 8:15-22 and commentary

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark,
you and your wife and your sons and their
wives. Bring out every kind of living creature
that is with you—the birds, the animals, and
all the creatures that move along the ground—
so they can multiply on the earth and be
fruitful and increase in number on it."

So Noah came out, together with his sons and
his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals
and all the creatures that move along the

ground and all the birds—everything that
moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind
after another.

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and,
taking some of all the clean animals and
clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on
it. The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and
said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the
ground because of humans, even
though[a] every inclination of the human

heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

“As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter,
day and night will never cease.”

The congregation sings: (Hymn 504)

**We sing th' almighty pow'r of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
We sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command,
and all the stars obey.**

**2 We sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his Word
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed
where'er we turn our eyes,
if we survey the ground we tread
or gaze upon the skies.**

**3 There's not a plant or flow'r below
but makes your glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and ev'rywhere that we can be,
you, God, are present there.**

Offering of Thanksgiving to the Lord



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

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During the offering the congregation sings: (Hymn 597, st. 1+3)

**Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love
and still is ours today.**

**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 heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

His Mercy endures forever.

Come, let us praise God joyfully.

Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

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

We thank you, O God.

For human life; for common hopes and hardships
shared from birth until our dying:

We thank you, O God.

For work to do and strength to work; for
exchanges of good humor and encouragement:

We thank you, O God.

For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh
made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens

shared; for love in Christ:

We thank you, O God.

For family; for living and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures: **We thank you, O God.**

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

We thank you, O God.

For the young; for their high hopes; for their candid criticism; for their search for freedom: **We thank you, O God.**

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

We thank you, O God.

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

We thank you, O God.

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:

We praise you, O God.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

The congregation sings: (Hymn 507)

**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.**

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

We praise you, O God.

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:

We thank and praise you, eternal God, for all your goodness to us.

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

His love endures forever.

Let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words He himself has taught us:

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.

**2 His law he enforces;
The stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We, too, should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing.
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

Our thanks to the Lord for the gifts and service of Amy Sehloff who accompanied this evening's worship!