GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Little Rock, Arkansas
November 28, 2013

THANKSGIVING DAY

PRAYER UPON ENTERING THE CHURCH

Gracious God, heavenly Father, You have generously given me a multitude of blessings, gifts for this body and life and the greater gifts of forgiveness and eternal life through Your Son, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am truly thankful to You for these undeserved gifts that You freely give. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit's power my life may be lived remembering Your steadfast love shown to me, and may it further be lived in joyful thanksgiving in any and every circumstance, walking in Your ways and giving You my worship and praise. I pray that You keep me steadfast in my faith, trusting in Your eternal promises. In Jesus' name. Amen

WELCOME

Welcome to this Service on this National Day of Thanksgiving. Being thankful suggests that there must be someone deserving of our thanks. While we may be thankful of one another for an act of generosity, it is the Lord of heaven and earth, Almighty God, who ultimately deserves our utmost thanks for all that we have for this life and the life which is to come, according to His promise. As citizens of this nation we have much for which to be thankful. As citizens of the kingdom of God we indeed should be eternally thankful for the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. So as Christian pilgrims in this place let us always remember the words of King David in Psalm 100: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5)

A nursery for infants and toddlers is located downstairs for those who have need. Restrooms are also located downstairs in this building or across the bridge on this floor level before entering the fellowship hall. If you have any questions ask one of our greeters or ushers for assistance.

AS WE GATHER

Thanksgiving is not a holy day on the Church's calendar, but it is a day of national thanksgiving when Americans are encouraged, even by various acts of Congress throughout our history, to take a moment to reflect upon the blessings given to us individually and as a nation and then give thanks for those blessings. We have much for which to thank God—the Word He gives us, which is the living voice of the Lord, and the great gift of His Holy Spirit by whose power faith is created and sustained in our hearts through the Means of Grace. Faith trusts all of God's promises made certain in Jesus Christ, and our faith recognizes the very goodness and faithfulness of the Lord and rejoices in great thanksgiving. "Now Thank We All Our God!"

THE ORDER OF MATINS
for
THANKSGIVING DAY

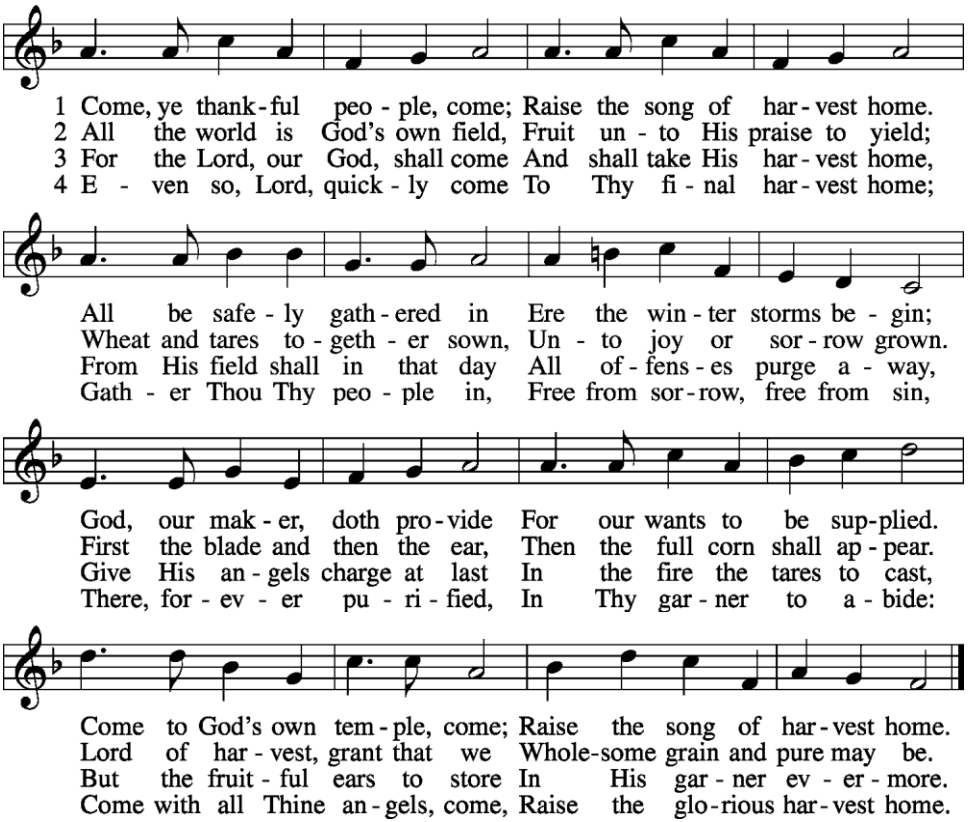
Pre-Service Music

Prelude *Suite on "For the Fruits of His Creation" – Benjamin Culli*

Ringing of the Church Bell

Please rise and face the processional cross.

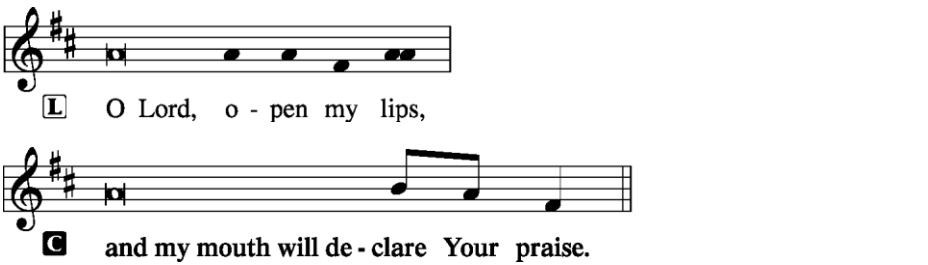
Processional Hymn: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come **LSB 892**

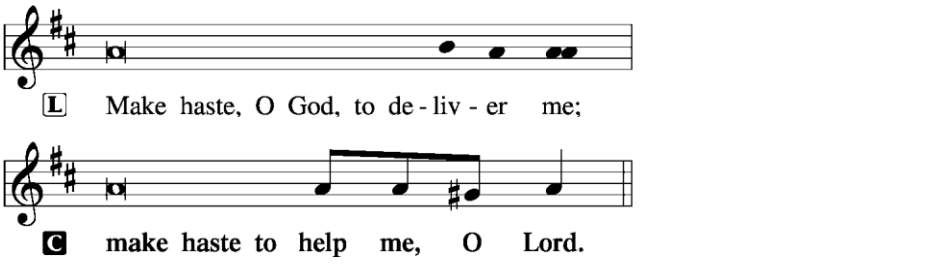


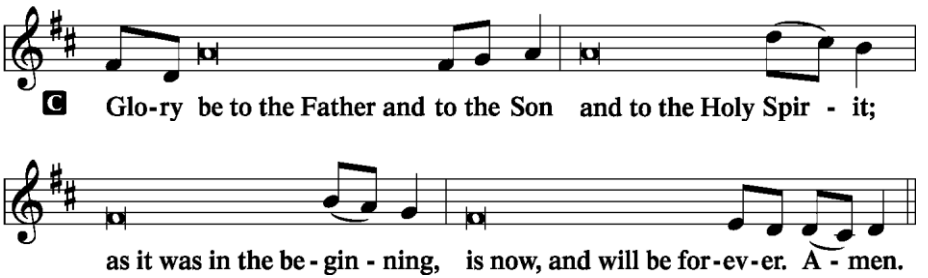
Public domain

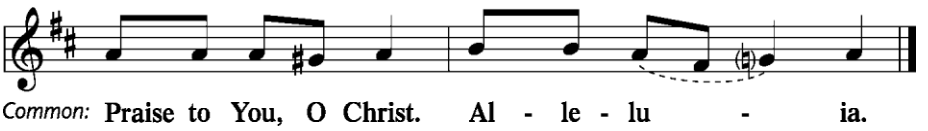
Opening Versicles

Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



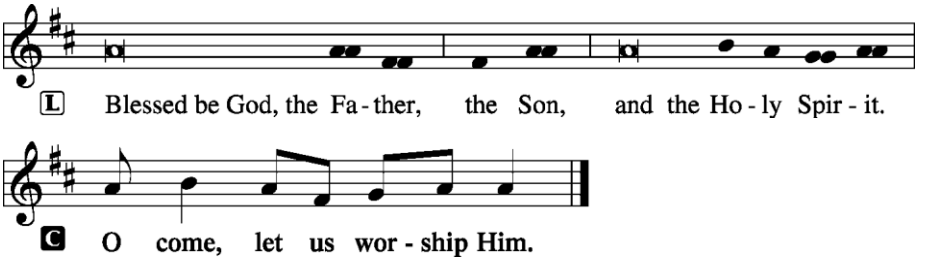






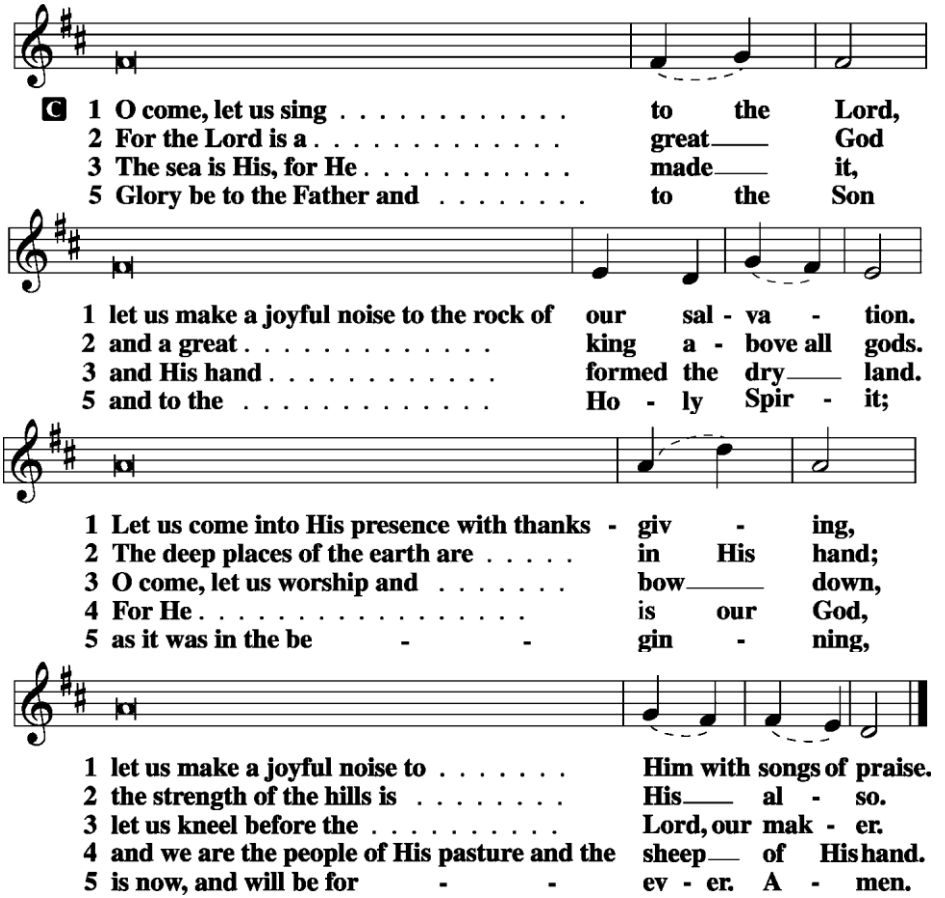
Psalmody

Antiphon

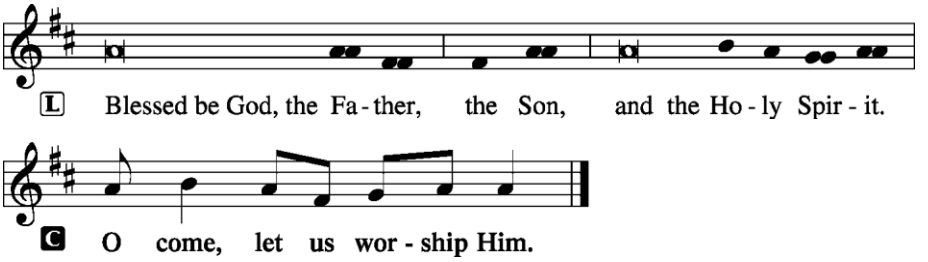


Venite

Psalm 95:1–7



Antiphon



Psalm

Psalm 67

P May God be gracious to us and bless us
C and make his face to shine upon us,

P that your way may be known on earth,
C your saving power among all nations.

P Let the peoples praise you, O God;
C let all the peoples praise you!

P Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
C for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

P Let the peoples praise you, O God;
C let all the peoples praise you!

P The earth has yielded its increase;
C God, our God, shall bless us.

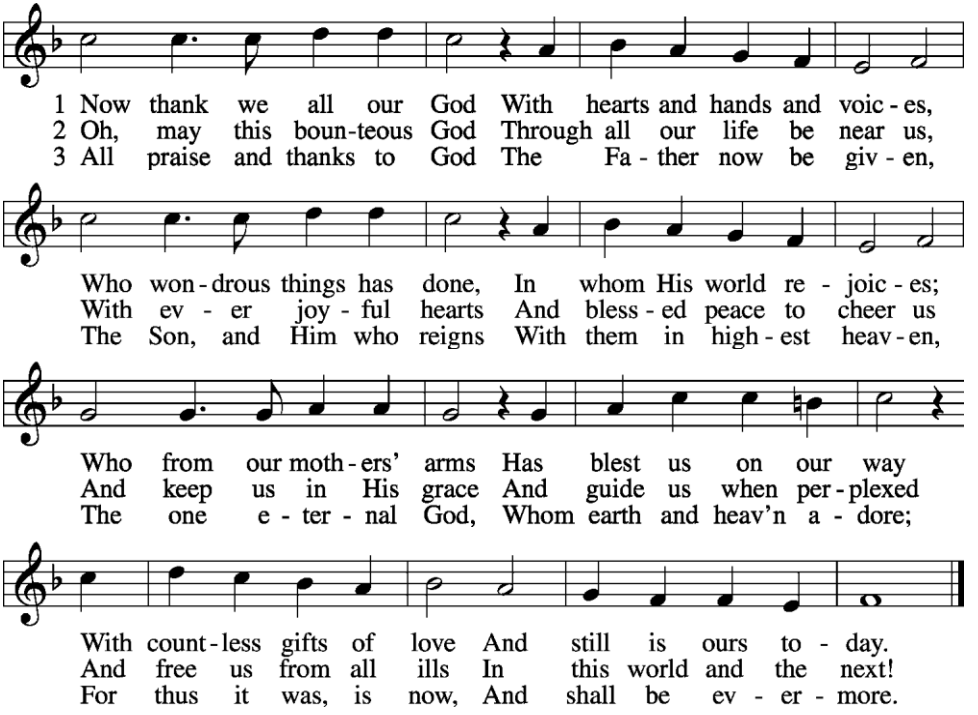
P God shall bless us;
C let all the ends of the earth fear him!

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen

Sit

Office Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God **LSB 895**

Service Note: *Please rise for the singing of the final stanza.*



Public domain

Sit

Readings

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. 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. 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. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot

did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. 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, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 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. And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 4:6–20

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

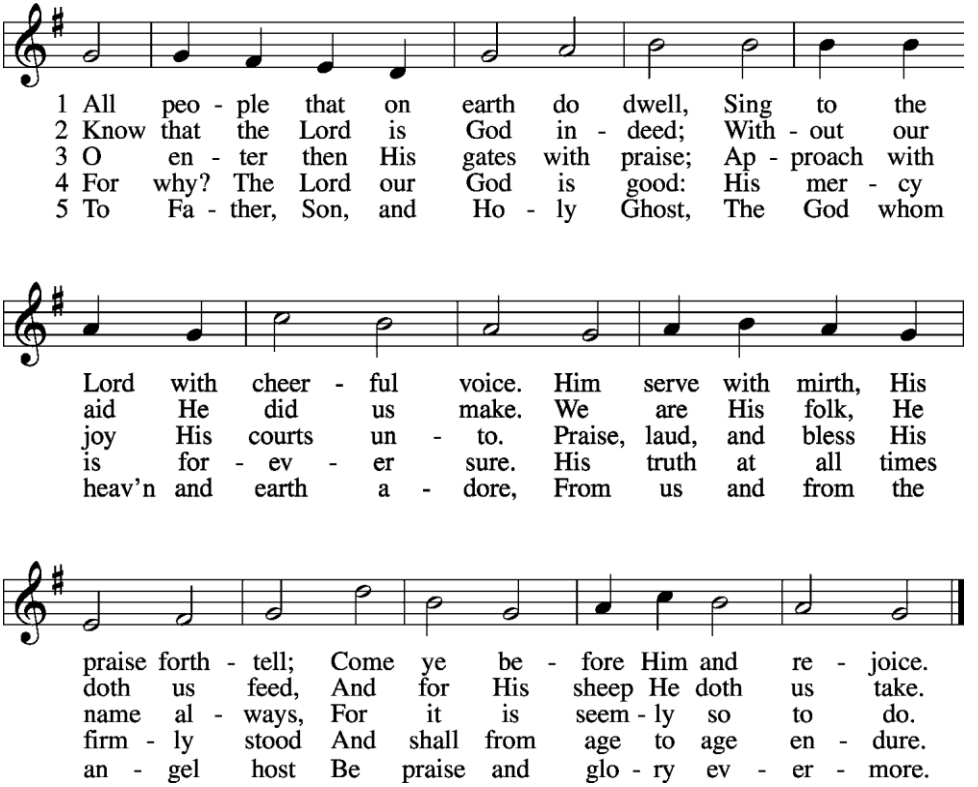
I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell — LSB 791

Service Note: *Please rise for the singing of the final stanza.*



Public domain

Holy Gospel — *Luke 17:11–19*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

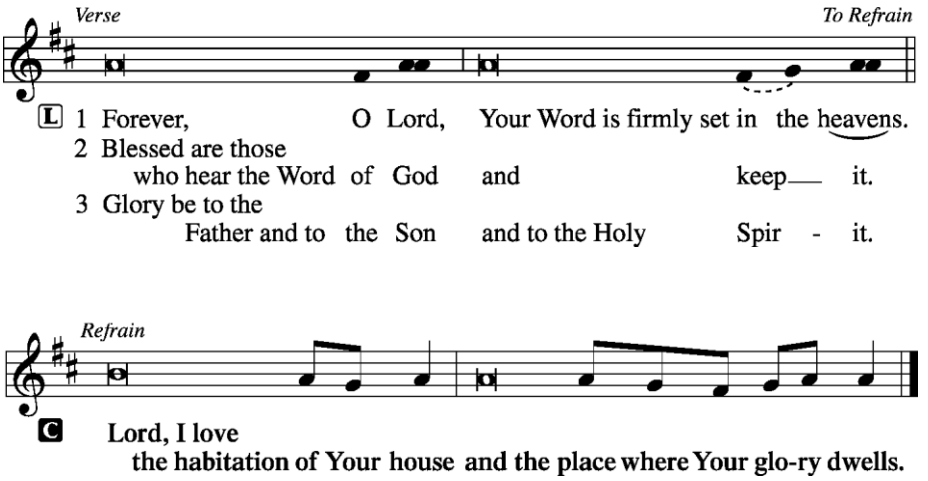
On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered,

"Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Responsory

Psalm 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28



Sit

Sermon

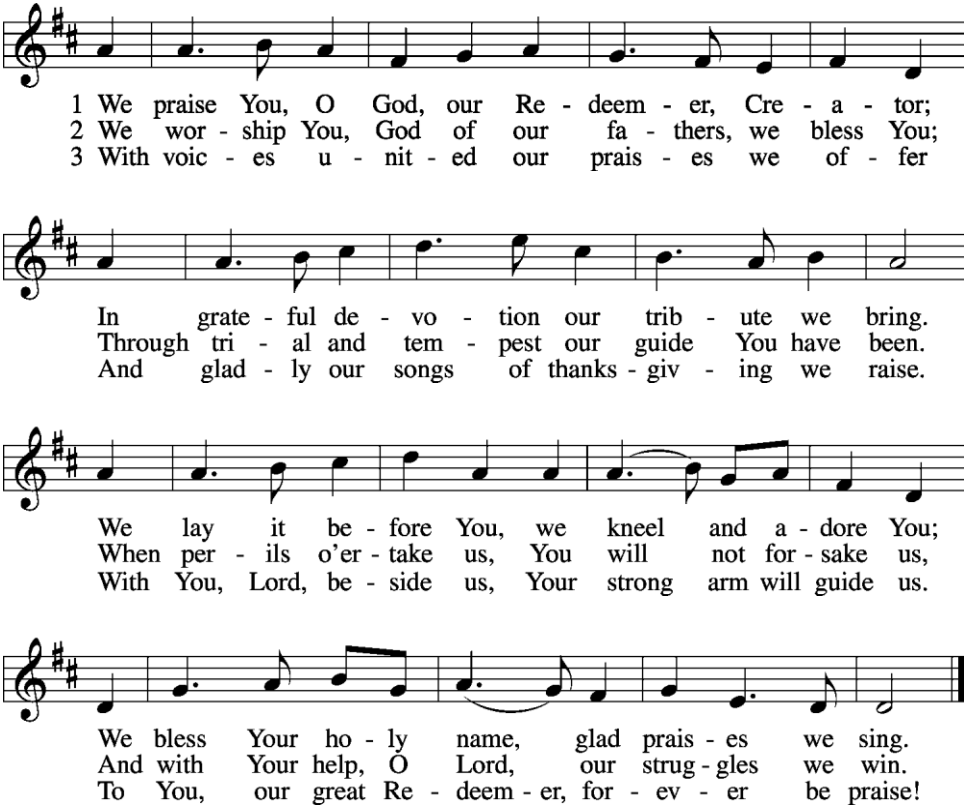
Psalm 105:1-3

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Stand

Canticle

Te Deum: We Praise You, O God **LSB 785**



Public domain

Sit

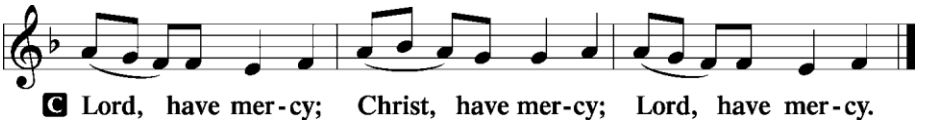
Offering *Now Thank We All Our God – Jacob B. Weber*

Stand

Prayer

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Lord's Prayer

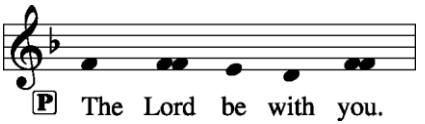
Matthew 6:9–13

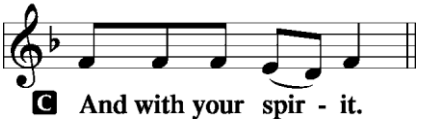
P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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

Salutation

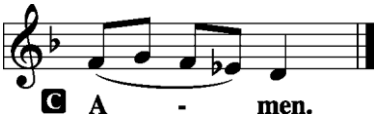
2 Timothy 4:22





Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Prayer of the Church

Service Note: *During the Prayer of the Church hymn stanzas from the hymn "Lord, to You Immortal Praise" will be sung. The first stanza will be introduced in its entirety. The remaining stanzas will be sung immediately after the congregational response "**Hear our Prayer."***

Lord, to You immortal praise
For the love that crowns our days;
Bounteous Source of ev'ry joy,
Let Your praise our tongues employ.
All to You, our God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow.

P In gratitude, O Lord, we come before Your throne of grace with our prayers and petitions offering You our thanksgiving and praise for pouring out upon us the riches of Your creation and the richness of Your grace. We acknowledge that You are the source of all of our blessings and we further realize that You bless us in ways we fail to perceive as blessing. Increase our faith and trust in You so that we recognize You as our great Provider for this life and the life to come. Bounteous Lord,

C **Hear our prayer.**

All the plenty summer pours;
Autumn's rich, abundant stores,
Flocks that whiten all the plain,
Yellow sheaves of ripened grain:
Lord, for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

P God of all creation, we marvel at the majesty of all You have made. You order our times and seasons and You entrust us with the stewardship of the land and the resources that You lavish upon us. We are beneficiaries of Your abundant provision. Yet Lord there

are many who live in great poverty as their needs go unfulfilled. You call upon us who have plenty to reach out in love to those who have little or nothing. Make us, we pray, rich in generosity even as You have been generous towards us. Giving Lord,

C Hear our prayer.

Peace, prosperity, and health,
Private bliss and public wealth,
Knowledge with it glad-d'ning streams,
True religion's holier beams:
Lord, for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

P We pray for peace and divine protection, O Lord. As You have prospered our cities and farms with abundance we pray for peace and calm in our world and in our neighborhoods so that we might enjoy Your rich blessings given to us and our neighbor. You worked peace for us with You through Your Son Jesus. Though that is the peace this world cannot give we do pray for peace and tranquility in our land even as we pray for peace between the nations. We pray Your protection not only on our nation but upon those who guard and defend our freedoms. We pray for our President and our national representatives, for our Governor and local leaders, for policemen and firemen, for our women and men in the armed forces, especially those who are in harm's way. Grant them wisdom in their work and safety in the line of duty, even as You remind them of Your presence. Gracious Lord,

C Hear our prayer.

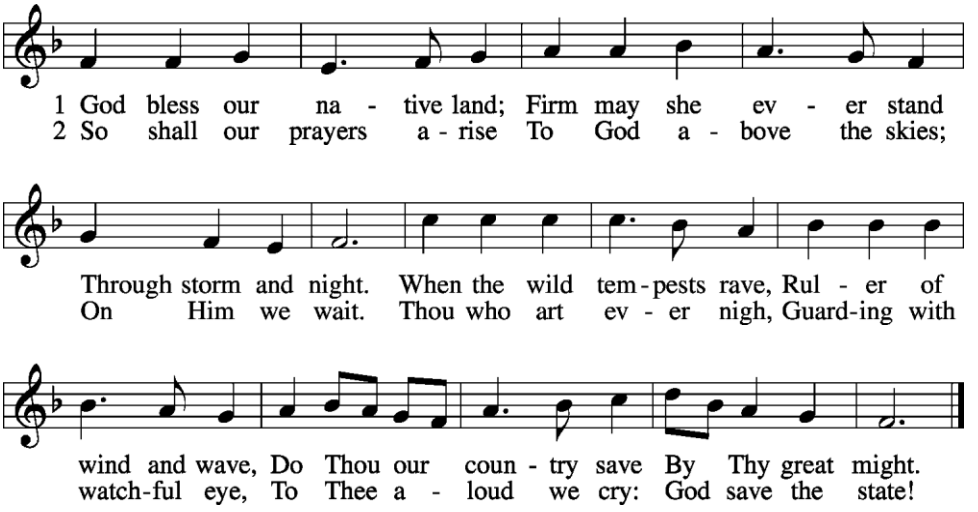
As Your pros-p'ring hand has blest,
May we give You of the best
And by deeds of kindly love
For Your mercies grateful prove,
Singing thus through all our days:
"Lord, to You immortal praise."

P Lord Your spiritual gifts have brought us to faith and they nourish us in that faith unto life everlasting. As we rest in Your saving grace we rejoice with those rejoicing *(Petitions offered for those who are rejoicing.)* Grant Your continued blessing upon them. We further pray Your blessing upon all who are in need of physical healing as well as those with other needs. (*Petitions offered for those who have special needs.*) Surround them and those we name in our hearts with Your presence and answer our prayers on their behalf according to Your good and gracious will. We also pray for ourselves that we would be truly thankful people not only at the time of harvest but in all times and seasons. Precious Lord,

C Hear our prayer.

P On this day of national thanksgiving, we pray that our nation might continue to be one that allows Your Gospel to be preached for the joy and edification of Your holy people and for the benefit of those who have no hope because they do not know Your love found in Jesus Christ. We would further pray that many would take this day to reflect on Your gracious provision for this time and for eternity, even as we enjoy the freedoms that You lavish upon us as citizens of this city, state, and nation. God bless our native land.

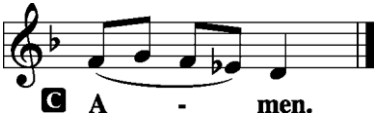
Hymn: God Bless Our Native Land — LSB 965



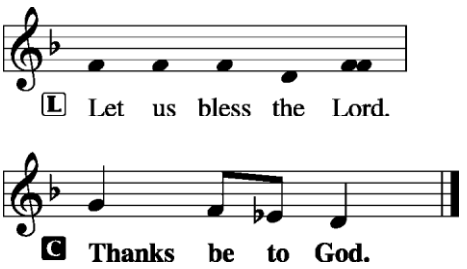
Public domain

Collect for Grace

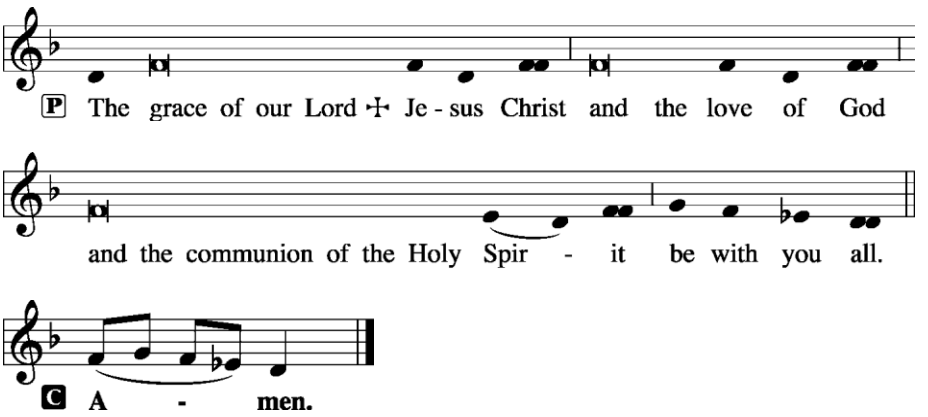
P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benedicamus *[Psalm 103:1]*



Benediction *2 Corinthians 13:14*



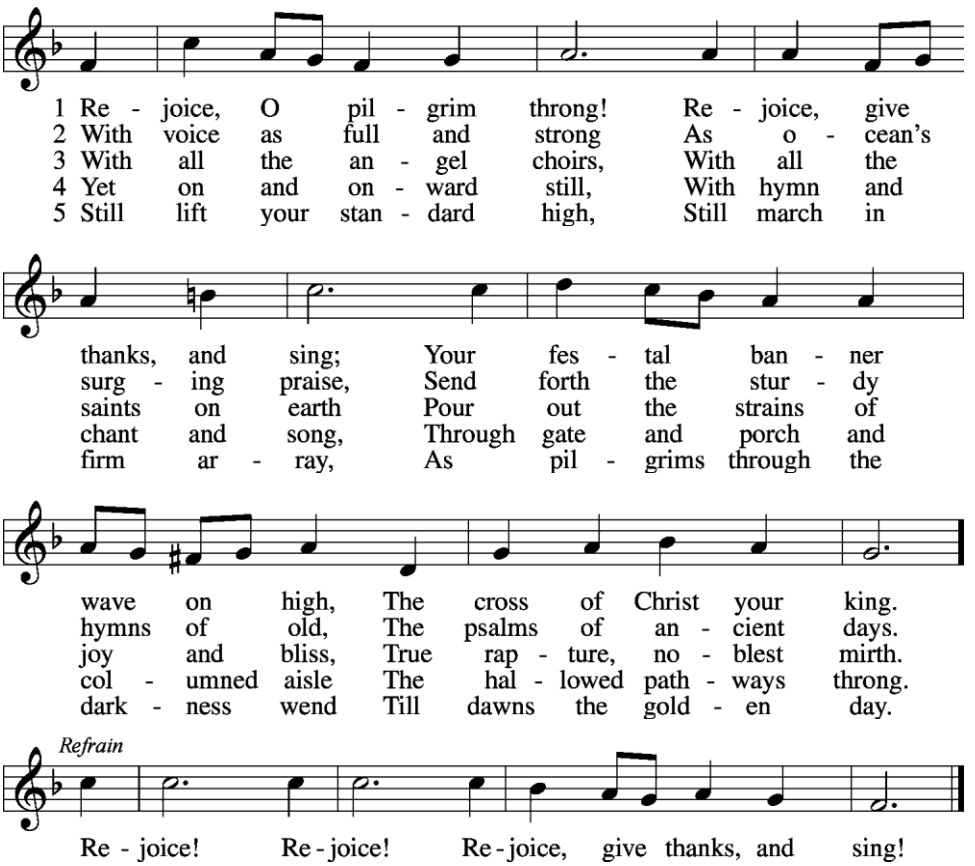
Closing Hymn: Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng *Printed on the next page*

Postlude *Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng - Charles W. Ore*

✢ ✢ ✢

Acknowledgments
Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Closing Hymn: Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng **LSB 813**



6 At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. Refrain

7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God forevermore. Refrain

Public domain

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and the beautification of His House by Irvin and Sherry Clawitter in celebration of their son Terry's 55th birthday and in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings for their family.

THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor:	Rev. James C. Walter
Vicar:	David Witte
Director of Parish Music:	Nathan Beethe
Crucifer:	Jack Manchester
Acolyte:	Anna Kate Manchester
Euphonium:	Paul Walter
Greeters:	Laine Krueger
	Kim and Lily Woodyard
Ushers:	David Faulkner, Cole Hill
	Wes Mainard, Chris Pils
Nursery Attendant:	Mary Ann Dyer