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**Thanksgiving Eve**

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” *Psalm 136:1*

**AS WE GATHER**

Thanksgiving can be a time when families come together to celebrate and give thanks to God for all that He has given us. These times of celebration can also be times of tension, stress, and conflict due to challenges in the relationships. Thanksgiving can also be a time of loss as we grieve those who are no longer with us. In all these things, we gather to give thanks to the God who has created all people and who desires all people to be saved through the knowledge of the saving truth about His Son, Jesus.

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION and SENTENCES** *Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30, 33*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the \_Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures.

**People: These all look to You, to give them their food in due season.**

Pastor: When You give it to them, they gather it up;

**People: when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things.**

Pastor: When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the ground.

**People: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;**

Pastor: I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *1 Timothy 2:1, 4*

Pastor: This night is the Eve of Thanksgiving, a remembrance we set aside to give thanks to our God who graciously gives us all things. In one of Paul’s letters to Timothy, he urges that “supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.” For each one of us there are people we struggle to be thankful for.

**People: We confess our struggles and our sins to God, seeking His forgiveness through Jesus Christ.** *Silence for personal confession*

Pastor: God created this world and everything in it, including all of the people who live in it. According to God’s gracious will, He “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Here’s the truth: God loves the people of this world so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. By the command of Christ and through the power of the cross, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Now Thank We All Our God”* (*LSB* 895)

**COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, You provide us all we need for our bodies and lives. Lead us by Your Holy Spirit to see and be thankful for all of the blessings You give us, thanking You with our lips and our lives; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** 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. **5**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.”

**EPISTLE** 1 Timothy 2:1-4

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.

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem he 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.”

**HYMN** *“Before You, Lord, We Bow”* (*LSB* 966)

**SERMON “Why Thanksgiving*?”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYERS and LORD’S PRAYER (The Litany, *LSB*, pg. 288-289)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“O Lord, We Praise Thee”* (*LSB* 617)

*“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”* (*LSB* 806)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We thank You, Lord God, for the heavenly blessings You have given us in this Meal of Your Son’s body and blood, which You have given us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Lead us by Your Spirit to live lives of thankfulness in all of our relationships, and, empowered by Your grace, to reveal Your saving truth to the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”* (*LSB* 643)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**