

Thanksgiving Day

November 26, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hermiston, Oregon



Introduction *(Some Time with a Smelly Friend)*

Hymn #797 verse 1 "Praise the Almighty"

Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
Yes, I will laud Him until death;
With songs and anthems I come before Him
As long as He allows me breath.
From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Text & Music: Public domain

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us,
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.
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!

Hymn #797 verse 2 "Praise the Almighty"

Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earthborn they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Text and Music: Public domain

President Abraham Lincoln's

Proclamation for a National Day of Prayer and Fasting (March 30, 1863)

Thanksgiving Proclamation (October 30, 1863)

"It is the duty of nations as well as of people to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sin and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with the assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord!

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father Who dwells in the heavens."

Gospel Lesson

Luke 17:11-19 NIV

Now on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As He was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met Him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When He saw them, He said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then He said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Hymn #797 verse 3 "Praise the Almighty"

Blessèd, oh, blessèd are they forever
Whose help is from the Lord Most High,
Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
To all who trust in Him, our Lord
Will aid and counsel now afford.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Text and Music: Public domain

Sermon

Hymn #797 verse 4 "Praise the Almighty"

Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
Pardon and peace from Him obtain;
Ever the wants of the poor supplying,
Their faithful God He will remain.
He helps His children in distress,
The widows and the fatherless.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Public domain

Prayers

O God, we give You thanks for the blessings You have provided in such abundance that they are beyond our counting and remembering, as rich and manifold as Your great gift of life itself!

O gracious Giver, Your bountiful goodness overflows our barns and our cupboards; we have enough, and more to spare! Our present needs are met by Your providing goodness – and our eternity is securely anchored in Jesus Christ!

Lord we pray that You may open our eyes to see the needs of others; open our hearts and hands to meet those needs according to Your gracious giving – that all lives we touch may know the riches of Your grace through Jesus.

For all of Your gracious gifts – those remembered and those forgotten -- and for all that You will provide for us in future days, we give You thanks, honor, praise and glory.

Lord, hear now our silent prayers and thanksgivings Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #797 verse 5 “Praise the Almighty”

△ Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!

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Blessing 2 Corinthians 13:14 & 1 Chronicles 16:34 NIV

The grace of our ✠ Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all! Amen.

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good!
And His mercy endures forever. Amen!



Deo Gratias

THANKS BE TO GOD

A Thanksgiving Prayer from Psalm 145

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
His greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends Your works to another;
they tell of Your mighty acts.
They speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty —
and I will meditate on Your wonderful works.
They tell of the power of Your awesome works —
and I will proclaim Your great deeds.
They celebrate Your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of Your righteousness.
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 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.
My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
Let every creature praise His holy name
for ever and ever.

(verses 3-16, 21)