

GIVE thanks

**in all circumstances;
for this is God's will
for you in Christ Jesus.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18



Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States, A Proclamation

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict; while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they 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 next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

-Abraham Lincoln

The Festival of Thanksgiving

A Service of Lessons and Hymns

November 24 & 25, 2021

ANTHEM

Adult Choir in 6:30 PM

Jr. Choir in 9:30 AM

“Let Us Give Thanks to the Lord”

“Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord”

Please Stand

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 51, John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out all my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge

Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith –
and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

Please Be Seated

Lessons and Hymns

Thank you, Lord,
for daily bread

FIRST LESSON

Give us today our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11 (NIV)

ADULT CHOIR in 6:30 PM

HYMN 611 v1-2 in 9:30 AM

“All Good Gifts”

“For the Fruit of His Creation”

*Thank you, Lord,
for forgiving ungrateful people*

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 106:1-12 (NIV)

¹Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. ²Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise? ³Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. ⁴Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people, come to my aid when you save them, ⁵that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise. ⁶We have sinned, even as our ancestors did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly. ⁷When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea. ⁸Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known. ⁹He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert. ¹⁰He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them. ¹¹The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived. ¹²Then they believed his promises and sang his praise.

HYMN 482 vv1&4

“Forgive Us, Lord”

*Thank you, Lord,
for peace with each other*

THIRD LESSON

Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

HYMN 773

“In Unity and Peace”

Choir will sing the refrain the first time, congregation is asked to join them on the second time through and the following refrains. Choir will sing the verses.



How good it is and how pleas - ant to



live in u - ni - ty and peace. How



good it is and how pleas - ant to



live to - geth - er in one Lord. Lord.



1 In the name of our Lord Je - sus Christ, a -
 2 Live a life that is wor - thy of your call; be
 3 Share the love that has joined us as one; u -



gree in ev - 'ry - thing you say.
 hum - ble, gen - tle, and pa - tient.
 nite in spir - it and i - deals.



May there be no di - vi - sions a - mong you, but
 Bear with each oth - er in ways that are lov - ing; pre -
 Nev - er be ri - vals; do not be con - ceit - ed, but



be u - ni - ted in one mind.
 serve the u - ni - ty of faith. For there is
 look to oth - ers in their need.



one Lord, one faith, one



God of us all.

To Refrain

*Thank you, Lord,
 for giving me Christ's righteousness*

FOURTH LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NIV)

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Choir will sing verses 1-2. Congregation will sing verses 3-4.

1. My hope is built on nothing less Than
 2. When dark-ness seems to hide His face, I
 3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood Sup -
 4. When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh,

3

Je - sus' blood and righ-teous-ness; I dare not trust the
 rest on His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 port me in the whelm - ing flood; When all a - round my
 may I then in Him be found; Dressed in His righ-teous-

6

sweet - est frame, But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale, My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is

12

sink-ing sand, All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Thank you in all circumstances, Lord

FIFTH LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (NIV)

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

HYMN 154 vv1&5

"Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"

Please stand

OFFERING HYMN 334

"Praise God, From Whom all Blessings Flow"

Please stand and sing as the ushers bring the offering forward.

**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!**

PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling— even the Lord, who is my refuge— then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation." (Psalm 91)

Holy Scripture says that faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Lord God, we live by this faith, not by sight. We live by what you tell us, not by what we think, feel, or see. We give you thanks for this faith and pray that you increase it daily so that we might live ever more confidently in you. By grace, through faith, we cling to your promises and thankfully pray the prayer our Risen Savior taught us when He said, "This, then, is how you should pray":

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

BLESSING

The LORD your God says, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The LORD look upon you with favor, and give ✠ you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN 610

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Preacher: Tommy Welch

Organist: Ruth Affeld / Madeline Horton

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The pastors, faculty, office staff and their families wish you a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving! The service and volunteer work, gifts and Christian love and support from our brothers and sisters in Christ are a real blessing to us.

“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(1Thessalonians 1:2-3 NIV).

Reasonable Faith Bible Study: St. John’s Youth Group’s Reasonable Faith Bible Study had a great turnout this past month! The next class will be Wednesday, December 1st at 4:15-5:15pm at Dodgeland in Room 306. Please invite all high school aged students to join us for this wonderful Bible Study that answers many questions today’s youth may have.

WELS CHRISTIAN AID AND RELIEF

God has heaped his blessing upon us. We have much for which to be thankful. God's greatest gift to us is salvation through his Son. It is gratitude for God's grace that moves us to reach out to those who are in need and help them with their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. One way we do this together is through the compassion ministry of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. We assist those in need in three ways: by offering relief for those impacted by natural disasters, by supporting humanitarian aid projects in our WELS mission fields both at home and abroad, and by assisting WELS members who are dealing with extreme medical or financial challenges. Your special gifts provide critical assistance to people who are suffering and help to create opportunities to share the precious gospel of our Savior. Thank you!

Christian Aid and Relief grant totals for fiscal year 20-21:

\$1,445,570



CURRENT GRANTS

Domestic relief: In fiscal year 20-21, \$774,766 was utilized for disaster relief, including \$448,881 in pandemic relief. Disaster relief projects were conducted recently in Midland, Michigan; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Scroggins, Texas.

Humanitarian aid: \$515,789 was approved to provide basic needs for people all over the world. Home and world mission fields receiving humanitarian aid grants include Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Albania, Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, Mexico, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and several home mission congregations.

Personal grants: \$275,098 in personal grants was given through our congregations to assist people going through a health or financial crisis.

To learn more, visit wels.net/relief and fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief.

If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact director Rev. Daniel Sims.

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