

## **October 11, 2020**

### **Thanksgiving Worship at Home with Holy Communion**

We will have Holy Communion together - separately this worship time.

You will need either wine or grape juice and bread of some kind.

You may use whatever cups & plates you have – do not go out & purchase.

Here is a list: a white cloth, large cup or individual ones, a large paten (plate) for bread or small; depending on the size of your family.

A cross and a candle.

#### **Preparing for worship:**

#### **Good morning – welcome to worship,**

Gather everyone in your household together this morning. If you are not alone - assign parts of this beforehand. If you don't have a Bible you can google the scripture readings and print them out too. Perhaps print out copies of this for everyone present. This Liturgy is from the Lutheran Book of Worship and the modified prayers this morning are based on those from Sundays & Seasons Hymns are from the ELW & LBW.

Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some deep breaths. Light the candle.

### **GATHERING TOGETHER**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

**Hymn: ELW 693 LBW 407: Come ye Thankful People Come**

**The Lord be with you – and also with you**

#### **Let us pray:**

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples, and poured out your life with abundance. Invite us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure. Transform us into a people of peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ our sovereign and our Savior. Amen.

### **THE WORD**

**Deuteronomy 8:7-18**

**Psalms 65**

**2 Corinthians 9: 6-15**

**Luke 17:11-19**

**The sermon Rev. Norine Gullons**

## **Celebrating Thanksgiving this year is very important.**

When we take look around the world, we are a very fortunate people to be living in Canada at this time in history. Yes, I know we all are constantly talking about the effects of the virus on all of our activities. Many times, I too have questioned some political/public health decisions or the lack of them, but I also know I would not want to be living in a place where these decisions are taken lightly. Perhaps I could be asking us to lament, or to cry for justice, or to call for action. These things have their time and place. But today, as I read Luke's gospel, I am reminded that of all of our responses to events blessed or challenging, great or small, one of the most powerful and overlooked is that of giving thanks.

When we give voice to being thankful it is a choice with consequences. As we express our gratitude, we affect those around us, even shape the reality in which we live.

Jesus runs into a group of ten lepers, unclean and outcast. They approach him for healing, but they too keep their distances as they have been trained by bitter experiences to expect little from those around them. In response Jesus instructs them to go and show themselves to the local priest – which is a promise made by implication that they will be made well. Indeed, as they travel they are made well- cleansed of their infirmity. When one of them notices, he turns back to express his gratitude, falling at Jesus feet in a posture of worship to give thanks.

The other nine did nothing wrong. In fact, they did exactly as they were told and presumably also enjoyed healing. They received the blessing promised to them.

The one who turns back is identified, recognized, and affirmed that he not only saw that he was healed – but he also returned to give thanks.

Jesus concludes his exchange by inviting the man to rise and go on his way and saying that his faith has made him not only physically well, but also whole and indeed, saved.

Family Thanksgiving traditions will be different this year. We shouldn't have our whole extended families with us to share a meal, and we will miss that. It means that we need to be intentional about staying in touch with them. We are not even supposed to invite our senior neighbor - who already lives alone. So, what can we do for them? Even a phone call breaks the isolation that many people are feeling.

Gratitude is not the only emotion we might choose to express in response to the events of any given day. There are reasons for fear, for anger, for frustration, grief, for regret, for apprehension. Each and all of these colors our experience, makes its appearance on the stage of our lives, and perhaps each has a place and role to play from time to time. But we *choose* how much stage time to grant each of these emotions by giving them expression, and as we do so we give them power in our lives. But gratitude draws us out of ourselves into something larger, bigger and grander. It also frees us from fear, releases some of our anxiety, and empowers us to do more and dare more than we would ever imagine.

Even to return to a Jewish rabbi, to pay homage when you a Samaritan realize that you are more than a Samaritan or a healed leper - you are a child of God whole and accepted and beautiful just the way you are.

Today as we celebrate communion, we are thankful or grateful for the bread of life, our Lord. His blessings are all around us. His love will not let us go. He searches out those who feel lost and rejected. The bread of life brings wholeness and healing. He helps us to confront evil and injustice. The bread of life for all. The bread of life broken up for each one of us and scattered like breadcrumbs around the foot of the cross.

As we give thanks for all of these things in our lives we notice even more and are blessed yet again. Thankfulness opens up a world of mercy, abundance and grace.

We have the power to shape those around us, push back the tide of resentment and complaint that bothers us, and make room for a fresh appreciation of God's renewing, saving grace.

I am thank full for each and every one of you. For the faith you have shown over this challenging year here in this place. For everything that you do for our faith life together, that has drawn us closer to God and to each other in faith, and hope, and love. Amen

**Hymn: ELW 689 LBW 409 - Praise & Thanksgiving**

### **Our Response**

**The Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - LED BY JOY STATHAM

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all the ministries of your church. We give thanks for the work you have accomplished through your people, and we pray for your continued blessings in our ministry together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bountiful God, you feed us through the richness of the land, water, sunlight, and ample crops. Bless all those who cultivate the land to bring forth its bounty, especially farmers and migrant workers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you order our lives by your providence. We give you thanks for laws, infrastructure, and leadership that structure and support our human endeavors. Align our purposes with your own, that all our undertakings might bring you glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you open our hearts in compassion for one another. We give you thanks for the care and healing received through the hands and feet of your servants. Send us to love those most in need of your mercy (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hospitable God, you connect and strengthen us through meals and conversation with family and friends. In this time of thanksgiving, steer us from passive receiving to active response, from old quarrels to reconciliation, and from overconsumption to true gratitude. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the love and care we have received from saints who have gone before us. By their example, enrich the generosity of our witness to others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,**

**and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✙ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

#### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Please take time now to have your Communion at home.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: ELW 839/840 LBW 534 - NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD.**

### **BLESSING**

Mothering God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**