# DAY OF THANKSGIVING (Observed) and Friendship Sunday



November 22, 2026

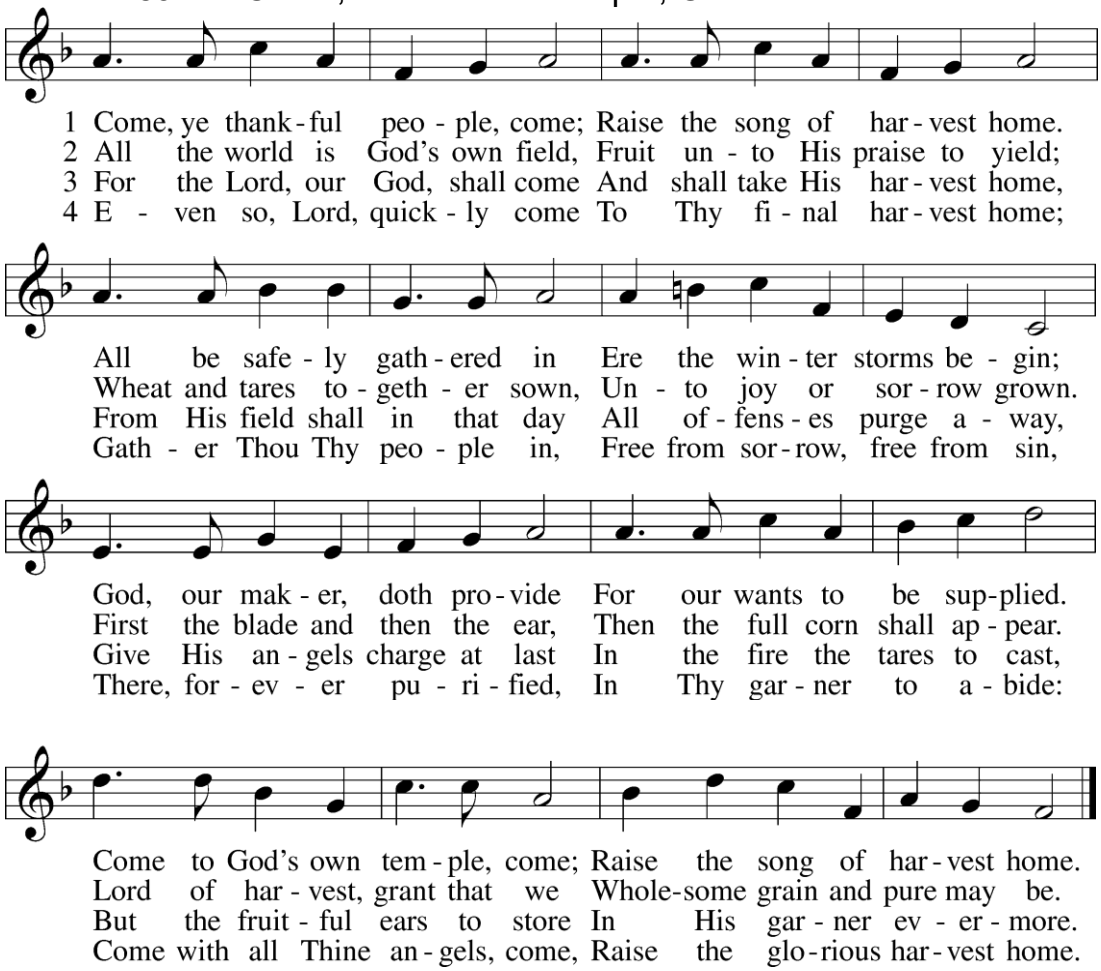
*Thanksgiving for the People of God*

**AS WE GATHER**

Did you give thanks for your last meal? Most people—even Christians—often "forget" to give thanks. When we do not give thanks, we are like the rich fool of the parable, thinking it was his work that brought the grain, when in fact it was God who gave it to Him. When we do not give thanks, we become fools, forgetting who gave us what we have and all we are. Have you been foolish? That is what Jesus calls the rich man. Give thanks always—that is the advice of Paul. Above all, give thanks for the cross and the empty tomb, which opens heaven to us.

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**HYMN #892 –** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

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Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
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## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,
**People: who created this world and each of us, a reason to give thanks;**
Pastor: and of the ✠ Son,
**People: our ultimate reason for giving thanks because through His love and sacrifice on the cross we are saved;**
Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,
**People: who calls, gathers, and enlightens us in the one true faith in Jesus. Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 136:1–4*

Liturgist: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
**People: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Liturgist: Give thanks to the God of gods,
**People: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Liturgist: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
**People: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

Liturgist: to Him who alone does great wonders,
**People: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 14:1; Romans 3:12; Psalm 136:1*

Pastor: The fool says in his heart,
**People: "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.**

Pastor: We want to think it is other people David refers to in this verse. Yet Paul puts us all in the same category when he writes to the Romans,
**People: "All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed. We deserve Your punishment, both now and for eternity.**

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor: I have the best news for you as we celebrate and give thanks to God for all He has done this year. He has given us the greatest thing to be thankful for today—the forgiveness of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
**People: "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

## INTROIT

*Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30; antiphon: v. 33*

Liturgist: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
**People: I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

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

Liturgist: These all look to You,

**People:** **to give them their food in due season.**

Liturgist: When You give it to them, they gather it up;
**People:** **when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things.**

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

**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.**

Liturgist: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
**People:** **I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

## THE KYRIE

Liturgist: In peace, let us pray to the Lord;
**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

Liturgist: For thanksgiving for all that comes from above, especially our salvation, let us pray to the Lord;
**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

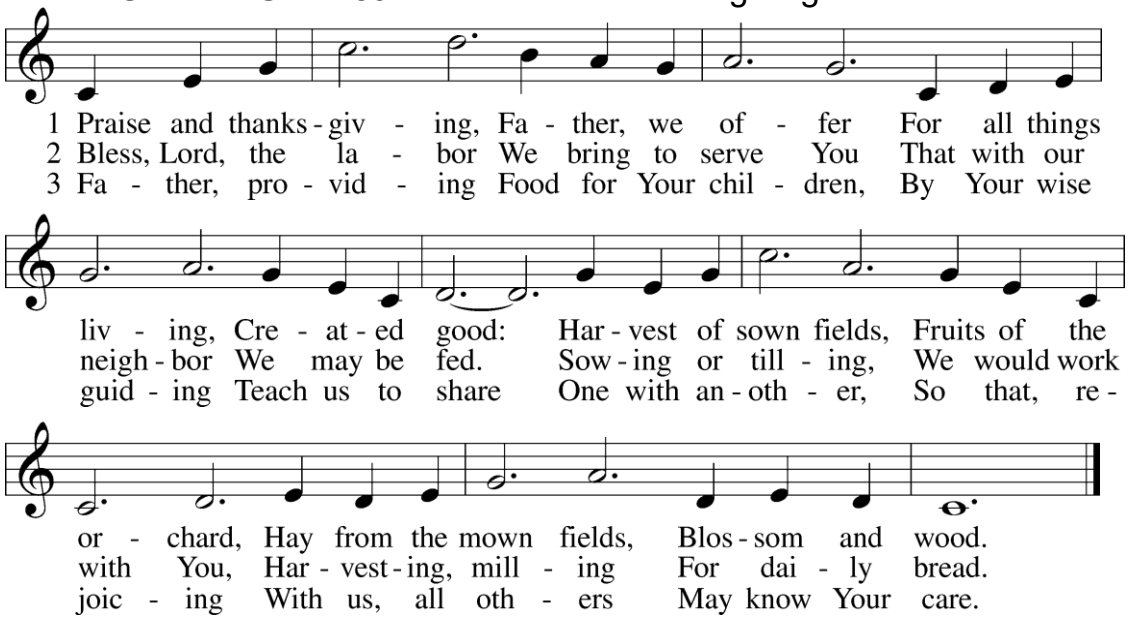
Liturgist: For thanksgiving for all that You have created, and for the well-being of the church of God, let us pray to the Lord;
**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

Liturgist: For thanksgiving for all, and that you would bring unity and peace to Your people, let us pray to the Lord;
**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

Liturgist: In thanksgiving for this holy house and all who offer You their worship, thanks, and praise, let us pray to the Lord;
**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

Liturgist: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE #789 –** "Praise and Thanksgiving"

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**SALUTATION**

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.
**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Liturgist: Let us pray.
Almighty God, we thank You for all the mercies You have shown to us. You give us food and drink, a place we can call home, and most importantly, the sacrifice of Your Son on the cross to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation through His atoning death and resurrection, which conquered death and the grave forever. Help us not to be fools, that we instead give You thanks on this day and every day. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Deuteronomy 8:1-10*

[1]"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. [2]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. [3]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. 4Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. 5Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. 6So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. 7For 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, 8a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 9a 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. 10And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ~** **"Thanksgiving"**
*John Ness Beck*

**EPISTLE** Philippians 4:6-20

6Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
8Finally, 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. 9What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
10I 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. 11Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12I 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. 13I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
14Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 15And 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. 16Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. 17Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 18I 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. 19And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Pastor: Alleluia. Give thanks in all circumstances;
**People: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Alleluia.**

Pastor: Alleluia. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
**People: for His steadfast love endures forever. Alleluia.**

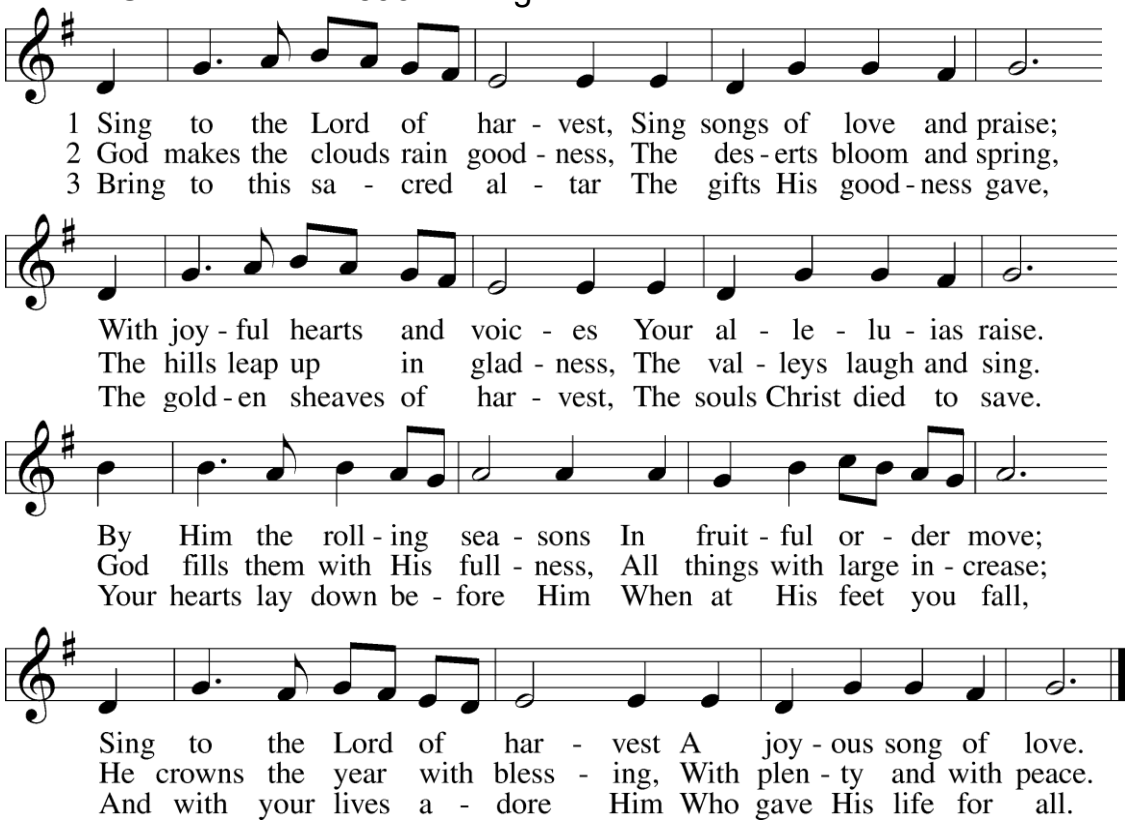
**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 17:11-19*

**P**astor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter.
**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

[11]On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.
[12]And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance [13]and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” [14]When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. [15]Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; [16]and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. [17]Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? [18]Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” [19]And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #893 –** "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

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***SERMON***

## CREED

### Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
**maker of heaven and earth.**

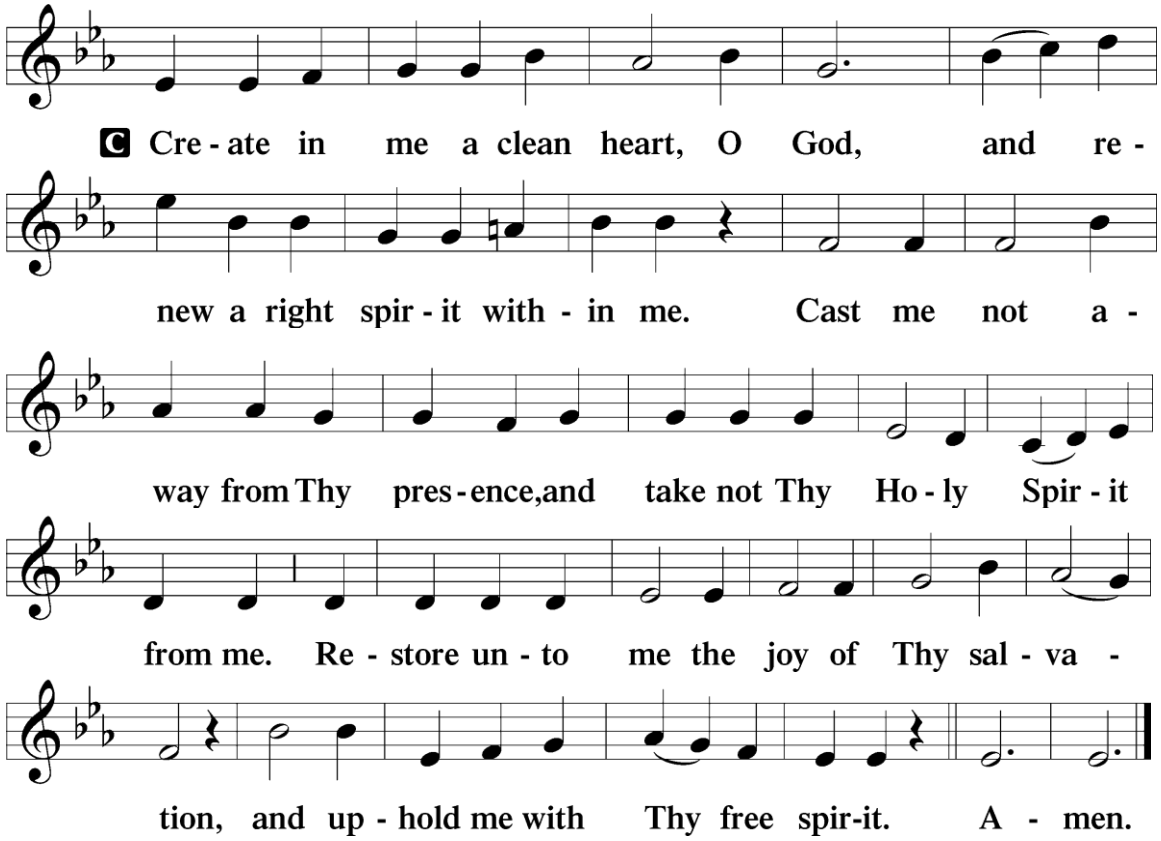
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,**
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**
**born of the virgin Mary,**
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**
**was crucified, died and was buried.**
**He descended into hell.**
**The third day He rose again from the dead.**
**He ascended into heaven**
**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**
**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
**the holy Christian Church,**
**the communion of saints,**
**the forgiveness of sins,**
**the resurrection of the body,**
**and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

(We join with Christians all over the world in worshipping God through the giving of our financial resources. If you are a first-time visitor, you are our guest and we do not expect you to give an offering. For members and friends, the ministry of this congregation is completely dependent upon your generous giving. Our offering is a significant act of worship.)

**OFFERTORY**




**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: With great thanksgiving for all God has given us, we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs.

**People: We come before the Lord with thankful hearts for all He has done. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we come before You on this great day of Thanksgiving, confessing that You have given us all we have,

**People: yet we often foolishly think what we have is of our doing. Forgive us for our foolishness. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We remember those in our church family and those we know who are sick and suffering, [*especially . . .*].

**People: We lift them up to the great heavenly physician, asking You, dear Lord, to bring healing and health, bringing remedies as only You can and according to Your will. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We recall that You have called us in Scripture to pray for kings and all in authority that we might live peaceful lives.

**People: We lift up every ruler in every land; especially this day, we lift up our President, Congress, and all government officials. Guide all by Your Holy Spirit to accomplish Your will on this earth, that Your kingdom may truly come. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We are also reminded by Your Word to pray for those who are persecuted.

**People: We ask that You would be with them in their hour of trial; strengthen their faith and remind them of their great reward. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Each year, Your people of old would recall who they were because of Your blessings.

**People: We, like them, are nobody apart from You. Through the cross and empty tomb, You make us Yours by faith, members of Your family, for which we give You thanks. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Your Word calls us to remember the poor and those in need.

**People: By Your Holy Spirit, open our eyes that we may see those who are poor and in need that we can serve them. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You have sent Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, by which we have believed Your Word and are members of Your kingdom,

**People: but we know there are those who do not believe in You. Use us by Your Spirit, according to Your will, that these ripe fields may bring a great harvest for Your glory. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We lift these and all the prayers of our hearts before Your throne, almighty God.

**People: We pray in the name of Jesus, who with You and the Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Thanksgiving for God's Gift of People in Our Lives and the Privilege of Being God's Presence in the Lives of Others*

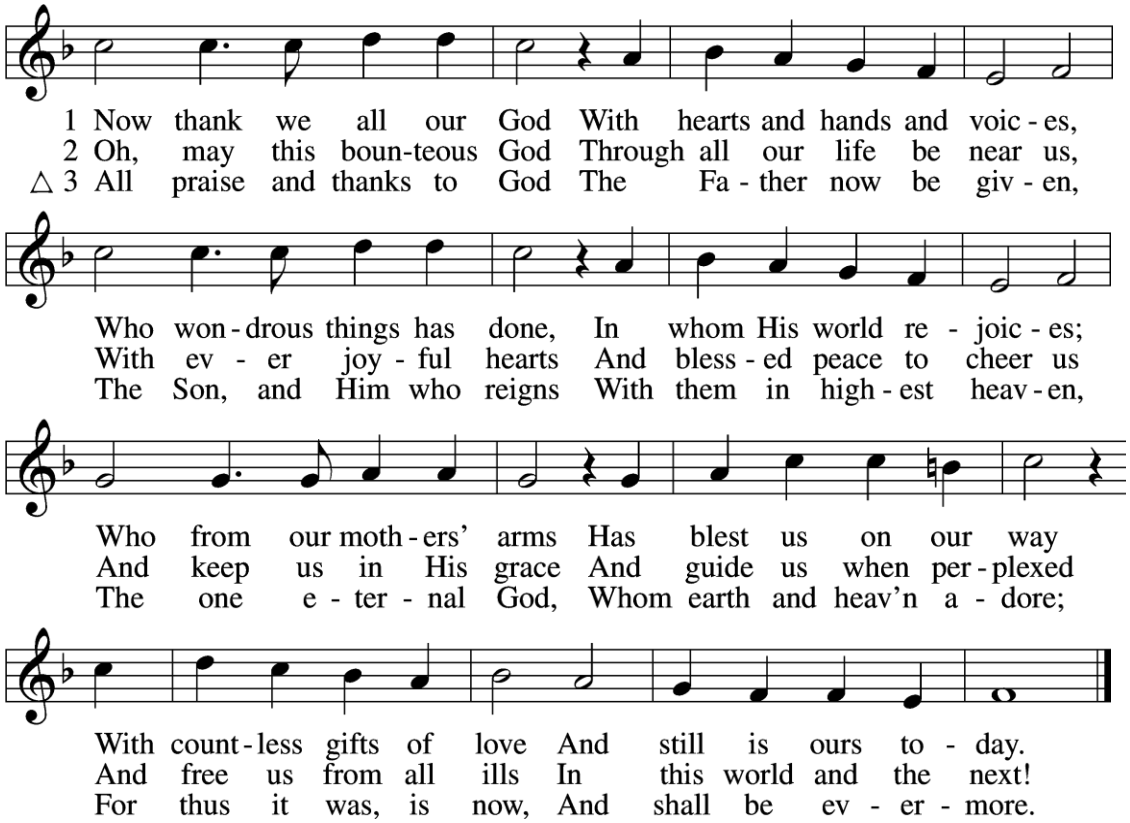
**LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
**People: Amen.**

**HYMN #895 –** “Now Thank We All Our God”

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## Those Serving Today:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pastor | Rev. Charles Minetree |
| Liturgist | Gary Stratemeyer |
| Lay Reader | Roland Obedekah |
| Pianist | Eugene Anderson |
| Director of Music | Muriel Hopkins |
| Altar Guild | Joan Goeller/Laura Pickering |

## Birthdays This Week:

23 Eyibio Adah
Ginger Glindemann
Scott Heemann
28 Nsebong Adah

**This Week at Immanuel:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | November 22 | 10:00 am | Worship |
| *Friendship Sunday* | | | |
| Sunday | November 29 | 10:00 am | Worship & Holy Communion |
| | | 11:00 am | Adult Bible study |

**No choir rehearsal on Thanksgiving**

## Ministry Notes

**Our Menu**

Served on Sunday Mornings after the Divine Service:

Children of God Living in a Post Christian Culture. This meal begins on September 13th. There seems to be three especially systemic sins confronting God's people today. Systemic idolatry, systemic sexual perversion, and systemic greed. These sins, while not the only sins condemned in Scripture, seem to be the most prevalent today. We will look at how disciples respond to these issues in our culture and in our own lives. We meet in the Jean Heemann Conference Room.

Served Every Second and Fourth Wednesdays at Noon:

We will take a fresh look at God's gift of prayer. It's easy to forget what a privilege it is be able to come into the presence of God and speak to Him as a dear and loving Father. We will examine samples of prayer in scripture and revitalize our prayer life. This is a lunchtime feast so bring lunch (and sometimes something to share) and meet in the Ronald F. and Jean S. Heemann Memorial Conference Room. This mealtime begins Wednesday, September 9th. Served Every Second and Fourth Thursdays at 7:00 PM on ZOOM:

This online class looks at the "golden thread" that runs through the Old Testament. Jesus is that "gold thread." The Old Testament not only foretells the coming of the messiah but is main topic from Genesis on. The Old Testament witness to Jesus too! This feast begins Thursday, September 17th.

**Matthew 4:4 But Jesus answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"**

Come and join these meals for the heart, mind, and soul. God works through His Word by His Holy Spirit. The Word of God gives, sustains, and makes spiritual life grow!

Please indicate your desire to dine at these feasts by sending an email to ilcadmin@immanuellutheran.org or calling the church office 410-435-6861.

**SAVE THE DATES for Events at Immanuel:**

Saturday, December 12th, 3 pm, Baltimore Choral Arts Society concert
Christmas Eve candlelight service, 9 pm

**CHOIR REHEARSALS every Thursday (except Thanksgiving week) 6 to 7 pm, through December 3rd**

## Prayer Requests

-Elaine Schwab, who is at Oakcrest rehab facility
-For the Witt family who had to leave their house after a fire there in the early morning hours of October 31st
-Claire Ruble who is back at home and at school after her surgery on Friday, August 28th for the injuries to her leg she sustained in a fall.
-Ray Ward, who had a fall and is recovering at home
-John Stratemeyer, who is recovering from a broken back
-Anthony Summers grandmother, Irma, who had a stroke, and Anthony's mother, Millie, who is caring for her.
-Denise Waicker who is suffering from headaches and neck pain from a car accident
-Sarah Lietzau, who is facing surgery
-Joseph Woah-tee missing, and whereabouts unknown