

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**  
**NOVEMBER 23, 2011, 7:00 PM**

Pre-Service Voluntary:

*"We Thank Thee, Lord Jesus Christ"*

- D. Buxtehude

Welcome/Announcements

**† We Prepare to Worship †**

Prelude: *Piano and Organ Variation on "Dix"* - Smith & Hustad  
*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

**† We Praise God †**

\*Invocation

\*Hymn #879: *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

\*The Prayer of the Day

**P:** Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**† God Speaks to Us †**

**THE FIRST READING**

**Job 1:14-20**

Lector: A reading from Job the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

<sup>14</sup>a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, <sup>15</sup>and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>16</sup>While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>17</sup>While he

\* Please stand if you are able

was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>18</sup>While he was still speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup>and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you."

<sup>20</sup>Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped.

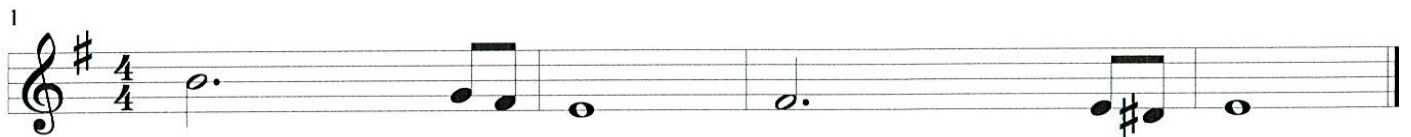
Lector: The Word of the Lord

**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

**The Psalmody**

*Sung In Unison*

**Psalm 100**



**<sup>1</sup>Be joyful in the LORD, | all you lands;\*  
serve the LORD with gladness and come before his  
presence | with a song.**

**<sup>2</sup>Know this: The LORD him- | self is God;\*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep | of his pasture.**

**<sup>3</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his | courts  
with praise;\*  
give thanks to him and call up- | on his name.**

**<sup>4</sup>For the LORD is good; his mercy is | everlasting;\*  
and his faithfulness endures from | age to age.**

Psalm Responsory: "*O Be Joyful*"  
*Chancel Choir*

- L. S. Glarum

## THE SECOND READING

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Lector: A reading from 1 Thessalonians the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

\*Please stand if you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel for two reasons:*

*First, when the prophet Ezra read the Torah to a people who had never heard it before, they stood at the water-gate – weeping over what they were hearing. (Nehemiah 8)*

*Second, we stand for the reading of the Gospel to honor Christ the Word coming into our midst.*

## \*The Holy Gospel

## Matthew 6:25–35

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these

things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>34</sup>So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon:

*"The Naked Truth about Thanksgiving"* - Pastor Rob Stippich

Hymn of the Day #840: *"Now Thank We All Our God"*

\*Apostles Creed

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### † We Offer to God †

Offering

Organ Offertory: Variation on *"Nun Danket Alle Gott"* - W. Wold  
*Tune of the Hymn of the Day*

\*Doxology: Hymn # 884: *"Praise God from Whom..."*

\*Offertory Prayer - Merciful Father,

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*The Prayers of the Church

P: Trusting in God's promises, let us pray for the church, the creation, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

P: We thank you, shepherding God, for the gift of the church. Guide its leaders so that joyful praise and honest prayer may bear fruit in faithful service. Hear us, O God,

**C: your mercy is great.**

P: We thank you, bountiful God, for the gift of creation. Renew the land and direct its stewards, that all may share in an

abundant harvest. Hear us, O God,

**C: your mercy is great.**

P: We thank you, provident God, for the gift of this world. Direct the leaders of nations, that all generations may receive food, drink, shelter, and clothing. Hear us, O God,

**C: your mercy is great.**

P: We thank you, sustaining God, for the gift of healing. Restore the sick and those who cannot celebrate today (*especially*). May they know your abiding love. Hear us, O God,

**C: your mercy is great.**

P: We thank you, loving God, for the gift of community. Lead this congregation to be mindful of the lonely and forgotten both near and far. Hear us, O God,

**C: your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: We thank you, eternal God, for the gift of your saints (*especially*). Nourish us in this life until that day when all share in the heavenly feast. Hear us, O God,

**C: your mercy is great.**

P: Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our hope and our redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Traditional Lord's Prayer**

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*† We Leave to Serve †*

\*Benediction with sung "Amen"

\*Closing Hymn #689: "Praise and Thanksgiving"

Closing Prayer

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

- J. Christoph Bach

Fughetta on "Old Hundredth" (Doxology)

† † † † †

**TONIGHT WE WELCOME** our Brothers and Sisters from Wiest Memorial United Methodist Church, Schoeneck as we continue a yearly tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving Eve worshipping God at both Wiest and Mellingers! A special thank you to Pastor Stippich for presenting tonight's sermon.

† † † † †



***Acolyte: Ron Gehr***

***Scripture Reader: Pat Haller***

***Nursery: Open***

***Greeters: Church Council***

***Piano & Organ Duet: Nancy Hain & Carl Tobias***

***\*Hearing Assistance Units Are Available*** for anyone who has difficulty hearing. Prior to worship, please contact an usher if you wish to use one of the units during worship.

# A Day of Gratitude and Friendship



Most Americans, learning about Thanksgiving's origin, hear or read about the destitute Pilgrims who suffered greatly during their first bitter winter in America. Many Pilgrims got sick, and half of them died.

What we don't focus on enough is the fact that Native Americans took pity on the Pilgrims. They befriended the newcomers and gave them food. They taught them how to survive the vicious cold months.

Then, when the earth grew warm again, the Indians taught the Pilgrims how to grow various crops and how to store any surplus. It was primarily because of the natives' friendship and helpfulness that the Pilgrims began to eke their way from disaster to fruitfulness.

It's no wonder that when the Pilgrims had their first successful harvest, they invited their Indian neighbors to celebrate with them. The natives didn't come empty-handed. They furnished venison, wild turkeys and probably vegetables from storage. It was, more or less, a potluck affair. The Pilgrim leaders prayed gratefully at the occasion.

We can be confident that an unseen but not unexpected Guest was very much present that day.

# 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation

—Abraham Lincoln

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 other nation has 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 of the 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 dwelleth in the heavens.

## Three kinds of giving

“There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, ‘I have to’; duty giving says, ‘I ought to’; and thanksgiving says, ‘I want to.’ The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God.”

—Robert N. Rodenmayer

