

Vasa Lutheran Church
Thanksgiving Eve Worship
A Service of Word and Song

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Anne Anderson

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

1) Proclamation of the Day:

L: In the first year of the presidency of George Washington in 1789, a Day of National Thanksgiving was set aside for the last Thursday of November. Since that time, Americans have celebrated this day in remembrance of all the blessings which God has poured down upon this nation and her citizens.

In the presidential proclamation for Thanksgiving Day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had this to say:

"It is the duty of nations as well as of citizens to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with 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 other 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 dwelleth in the heavens."

2) Call to Worship:

L. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C. God's steadfast love endures forever.

L. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

C. Make known God's deeds among the peoples!

L. God blesses us with gifts of love:

C. With food and clothing, home and family.

L. God blesses us with daily work:

C. And all we need from day to day.

L. God protects us in time of danger:

C. And guards us from every evil.

L. God calls us into relationship with him:

**C. And forms us into one holy people,
the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**

L. Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C. O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

Gathering Hymn:

We Gather Together

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!
3. We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be;
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Tune: Kremser

3) Scripture from Deuteronomy 8 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰ You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. ¹¹ Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹² When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵ who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶ and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷ Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." ¹⁸ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

4) A Thanksgiving Poem

For the hay and the corn and the wheat that is reaped,
For the labor well done, and the barns that are heaped,
For the sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,
For the rose and the song and the harvest brought home-

Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the trade and the skill and the wealth in our land,
For the cunning and strength of the workingman's hand,
For the good that our artists and poets have taught,
For the friendship that hope and affection have brought-

Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the homes that with purest affection are blest,
For the season of plenty and well-deserved rest,
For our country extending from sea unto sea;
The land that is known as the "Land of the Free"

Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

Hymn:

"Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689

5) Words of Thanksgiving from Psalm 65

L: You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;

**C: the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.**

L: You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

**C: You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.**

L: The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

**C: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.**

6) A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, **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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

7) Words from the Apostle Paul as written in 2 Corinthians

⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

⁹ As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

8) A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us join our hands and hearts in gratitude on this wondrous day, where we have the abundance of our lives before us. We remember on this day of bounty all of those who do not have enough, who are afraid, who are lonely, and who suffer. We wish for the abundance of this world to be shared, for fear to become love, for the lonely to feel welcomed, and for the suffering to know rest and joy. For the labors, the love, the care that gave us the delights of this and every day, we say "Thanks!" For the nourishment of our spirit, the challenges that strengthen us, and the friends we have on the journey, we sing "Thanks!" For all that is our lives, for these good gifts, we whisper, "Thanks!" Overflowing with gratitude, let us shout, "Thanks!" **Amen.**

Hymn: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ELW 693

9) Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

Essay: "Where are the Nine?"

10) A Thanksgiving Prayer by Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

As we sing worshippers are invited to come forward and present their offerings at the table in the front of the sanctuary.

Gathering of Non-Perishable Food stuffs and gifts of money for the Food Shelf

11) Litany for Thanksgiving:

As the pioneers of the Plymouth colony gathered around the feasting table with native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for all that they had been given by our Bountiful Provider, so we too gather on this Eve of Thanksgiving to offer thanks for all those gifts which the Lord has seen fit to give us, especially for our country, our state and our town.

Almighty and Generous God, we bring before you, in our hearts and on our Thanksgiving table, the gifts and blessings which you have given us this year. And, in humble gratitude, we give you thanks for them. We thank you as well for the blessings which come to us through the peace and prosperity of our nation, our state and our town.

C. We praise you, and we thank you, O God.

L. We acknowledge that as we have greatly received, so are we responsible. Therefore, O Lord, keep us from being unfaithful in our lives as citizens of this nation and as recipients of all that past generations of Americans have bequeathed to us. Help us to be worthy of our ancestors and of their God.

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To all the high desires of the pioneers and prophets,

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To their belief in the possibilities of a common people:

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To their passion for freedom and their readiness to die in its defense:

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To their scorn of tyranny, and their trust in men and women to rule themselves:

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To their vision of a human commonwealth in which the people of many lands may share:

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. To their release from the prejudice of an old world and their will to build a new one:

C. Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L. As our ancestors trusted in you, O Lord, and you delivered them:

C. Keep us ever close to you.

L. Lord of the nations, guide our people by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give us what outward prosperity may be your will, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen

L. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

Blessings for Thanksgiving: (Led by the pastor)

L. May the Lord of all creation shower his blessings and favor upon you.

C. Amen

L. May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with his presence and fill your loved ones with peace.

C. Amen

L. May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days until you come into the joys of his eternal kingdom.

C. Amen

L. And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

The Doxology (*Sung acapella*)

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. Amen.

Go in peace and in all things give thanks to God!

Thanks be to God!





If you haven't yet returned your **Intent Card**, it's not too late! We will accept them through December 1. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your gift.



FEED THE HUNGRY

The church council voted to designate our Thanksgiving offering for the Cannon Falls and Red Wing Food Shelves. As a part of this Thanksgiving service tonight and the Sunday service on Dec. 1, if you wish to donate to the food shelves, please place your offering in the box marked "Food Shelf". If you wish to also give an offering to the church, that offering will be placed in the offering plate. Thank you.



dates to Remember

- 12-7 9AM – 3PM Winter Bazaar
- 12-11 5:30 PM Vasa Community Dinner (Swedish Meatballs)
- 12-15 10:30 AM Children's Christmas Program
- 12-24 2 pm and 5 pm Christmas Eve Services



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Vasa website www.vasalutheran.org.



Vasa Mission
We, the Vasa congregation,
called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in Faith
Serving others, and
Welcoming and Loving all!