



**“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”**

+ *Revelation 22:13*

**THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

**November 22, 2020**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, *“He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats”* (Matthew 25:32). *“To those on His right,”* who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matthew 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matthew 25:35–40). But *“those on His left,”* who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart *“into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels”* (Matthew 25:41).

Until then, the Lord searches for His sheep *“as a shepherd seeks out his flock”* (Ezekiel 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, *“the fat and the strong,”* but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds *“the lean sheep”* (Ezekiel 34:16, 20).

In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that *“in Christ shall all be made alive”* by His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20–26).

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s email: [pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org)



*“Sheep and the Goats” by J. G. Wood, circa 1888*

## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION: The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

LSB 532, sts. 1–3

1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is  
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is  
3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The  
crowned with glo - ry now; A roy - al di - a -  
His, is His by right, The King of kings and  
Joy of all be - low To whom He man - i -  
dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.  
Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light;  
fests His love And grants His name to know.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

*Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*[Hebrews 10:22]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Psalms 32:5*

*Kneel (or remain standing)*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

*Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 (NIV)

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.*



*(Antiphon)* In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,\*  
the home of | righteousness.

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days; \*  
let me know how fleeting | I am!

**Behold, You have made my days a few | handbreadths,\*  
and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore You.**

And now, O LORD, for what | do I wait? \*  
My hope | is in You.

**Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.\*  
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!**

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace | at my tears! \*  
For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my | fathers.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*The antiphon is repeated.*

### KYRIE

Mark 10:47



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.  
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11–24

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 34.

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I Myself will be the Shepherd of My sheep, and I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

<sup>17</sup>“As for you, My flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? <sup>19</sup>And must My sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I Myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue My flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, My servant David, and He shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively.*



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

**Blessèd are those whose strength is | in You,\*  
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.**

## EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

**P** The Epistle is from First Corinthians, chapter 15.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a Man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under His feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,  
the Beginning and the End. Alleluia.

*Revelation 22:13*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 25:31-46*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’

<sup>37</sup>“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.’

<sup>41</sup>“Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

<sup>44</sup>“Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ <sup>45</sup>Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
 and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
 He suffered and was buried.  
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns**

*LSB 532, sts. 1, 4-6*

1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is  
 4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With  
 5 They suf - fer with their Lord be - low, They  
 6 The cross He bore is life and health, Though  
 crowned with glo - ry now; A roy - al di - a -  
 all its grace, is giv'n; Their name an ev - er -  
 reign with Him a - bove, Their prof - it and their  
 shame and death to Him: His peo - ple's hope, His  
 dem - a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.  
 last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.  
 joy to know The mys - t'ry of His love.  
 peo - ple's wealth, Their ev - er - last - ing theme.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

**SERMON**

*Rev. Griebenaw*

*After the Sermon the pastor may say:*

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
 keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

*Philippians 4:7*

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Kneel (or remain standing)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Matthew and Michael, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Donald, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.



*The prayers then continue:*

- P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Alleluia.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C** **To You, O Lord.**

*The live-stream service concludes with the following:*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **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.**

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.  
O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make  
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

*The Divine Service will continue with the Lord's Supper for those present at the church. Please sing and/or read aloud the closing hymn in your home and, if possible, please come by the church for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.*

**CLOSING HYMN: Sing with All the Saints in Glory**

LSB 671

1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -  
 2 Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has  
 3 Life e - ter - nal! Heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who

rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,  
 yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing  
 once was dead. Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!

To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the  
 Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,  
 Child of God, lift up your head! Life e - ter - nal!

clouds are break - ing; Soon the storms of time shall  
 Christ pre - pares it; There on high our wel - come  
 Oh, what won - ders Crowd on faith; what joy un -

cease; In God's like - ness we a - wak - en,  
 waits. Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it,  
 known, When, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders,

Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.  
 Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.  
 Saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

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**✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠**  
 (TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays (but don't tell Halloween . . . I don't want to make it jealous <grin>). Part of it is that I love cooking and gathering with loved ones. Truth be told, I've always wished I could be a "Martha Stewart" (and, yes, I used to subscribe to her magazine) but I never can seem to find the time or occasion to host a shin-dig as I would want (and with two young kids, our homes is less party-central as it is pooppy-central, ya know, with a 4-year-old and a toddler).

But the big part of what I loved about Thanksgiving was lots and lots of family! With so many things "scheduled" nowadays, Thanksgiving was just a "get together, watch some football or whatnot while the meal gets set, eat, and then enjoy the FOMA (the Food Coma—that time when your stomach is so terribly full that you can't think or move or speak . . . you just endure that feeling of being FULL)."

There is a downside to having lots of family at Thanksgiving, especially if you are a bit of slow-eater like I used to be—by the time all the plates have been passed around and you're just getting ready to really dig-into the food, someone at the table has finished and is ready for seconds . . . and the platters start to get passed around again. The problem is that you can't eat while passing platters . . . so my FIRST plate of food would often be my ONLY plate of food (as I tried stealing bites between passing the turkey or the green beans or the cranberry sauce).

But once Holly and I moved away from family, our Thanksgiving meals became very small. Even with two little guys, the "traditional" Thanksgiving Day spread is still just too much food for us. More than that, we missed family—we missed spending time with them, be it cooking in the kitchen or lounging on the couches—we just missed having family around.

Sadly, the isolation that Holly and I have endured seems to be the condition that all of us face for Thanksgiving Day this year, what with the renewed "lockdowns" due to the ongoing pandemic.

Now before we all break out the cheese to go with my whining <wink-wink>, I think it good for us to recall the genesis of our national Thanksgiving Day holiday. It was in the midst of the American Civil War that President Abraham Lincoln established our national "day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." Despite—or rather in spite of—the enormous national tragedy of civil war, President Lincoln recognized that our Father in Heaven continues to bless us, richly and abundantly, throughout our lives, in seasons of peace and in seasons of war, in times of plenty and in times of great want (I encourage you to revisit the First Article of the Apostle's Creed).

It is fitting that we study Psalm 31 this week because the 19<sup>th</sup> verse gives voice to what our Thanksgiving Day is all about: "Oh, how abundant is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You and worked for those who take refuge in You, in the sight of the children of mankind!"

So please join me on **Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)** for our **Study of the Psalms** on "Zoom." We socialize for the first 15 minutes and work through the psalm from 12:15pm to 12:45pm, finishing by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 31.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either "669-900-9128" or "346-248-7799" and enter 7603525715#

And tune-in to Facebook **Wednesday at 7:00pm** for a special **service of prayer and meditation** and preparation for Thanksgiving Day. The service folder is on our website ([www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org](http://www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org)) and the live-stream is on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro](http://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro)).

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

P.S. President Lincoln's proclamation is on the next page. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Proclamation of Thanksgiving

Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

*The year that is drawing towards 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 even 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 to provoke their aggression, 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 theatre of military conflict; while that theatre 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 plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe 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 battle-field; 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.*

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,  
Secretary of State