



THANKSGIVING EVE DEVOTION

November 25, 2020

Reading of the 1863 Proclamation of Thanksgiving made by President Abraham Lincoln (see last page of bulletin)

✠ COMPLINE ✠

Kneel or Stand

Opening Versicles



L The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



C A - men.



L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



C to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;



L to herald Your love in the morn - ing,



C Your truth at the close of the day.

Exhortation

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

Silence for self-examination.

L Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

L By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C Amen.

Stand

✠ Psalmody ✠

Psalm

Psalm 31; antiphon: v. 19

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



(Antiphon) Oh, how abundant is Your | goodness,*

which You have stored up for those who | fear You
and worked for those who take re- | fuge in You,*
in the sight of the children of | mankind!

- ¹ In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;*
in Your righteousness de- | liver me!
- ² Incline Your ear to me; rescue me | speedily!*
- Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to | save me!
- ³ **For You are my rock and my | fortress;***
- and for Your name's sake You lead me and | guide me;**
- ⁴ **You take me out of the net they have hidden | for me,***
- for You are my | refuge.**
- ⁵ Into Your hand I commit my | spirit;*
- You have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.
- ⁶ I hate those who pay regard to worthless | idols,*
- but I trust | in the LORD.
- ⁷ **I will rejoice and be glad in Your | steadfast love,***
- because You have seen my affliction; You have known the distress | of my soul,**
- ⁸ **and You have not delivered me into the hand of the | enemy;***
- You have set my feet in a | broad place.**
- ⁹ Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress;*
- my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body | also.
- ¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with | sighing;*
- my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones | waste away.
- ¹¹ **Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors,**
- and an object of dread to my ac- | quaintances;***
- those who see me in the street | flee from me.**
- ¹² **I have been forgotten like one | who is dead;***
- I have become like a broken | vessel.**
- ¹³ For I hear the whispering of many—terror on | every side!—*
- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to | take my life.
- ¹⁴ But I trust in You, | O LORD;*
- I say, “You | are my God.”
- ¹⁵ **My times are | in Your hand;***
- rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my perse- | cutors!**
- ¹⁶ **Make Your face shine on Your | servant;***
- save me in Your | steadfast love!**
- ¹⁷ O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call up- | on You;*
- let the wicked be put to shame; let them go silently | to Sheol.
- ¹⁸ Let the lying | lips be mute,*
- which speak insolently against the righteous in pride | and contempt.
- ¹⁹ **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!**
- ²⁰ **In the cover of Your presence You hide them from the | plots of men;***
- You store them in Your shelter from the | strife of tongues.**

²¹ Blessèd | be the LORD,*
 for He has wondrously shown His steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged | city.
²² I had said in my alarm, “I am cut off | from Your sight.”*
 But You heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to | You for help.
²³ Love the LORD, all | you His saints!*
 The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who | acts in pride.
²⁴ Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,*
 all you who wait | for the LORD!
 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.

Sit

Office Hymn: Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

LSB 722

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,
 Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
 For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
 I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.
 With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
 Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
 Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;
 So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
 For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
 So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000347; Tune: Public Domain

✠ Readings ✠

First Reading

Isaiah 45:18–19, 22–23

¹⁸For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is God!), who formed the earth and made it (He established it; He did not create it empty, He formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the LORD, and there is no other. ¹⁹I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in vain.’ I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right. . . .
²²“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. ²³By myself I have sworn; from My mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’”

Silence for reflection.

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Silence for reflection.

Holy Gospel

Luke 23:44-48

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “**Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!**” And having said this He breathed His last.

⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this Man was innocent!”

⁴⁸And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

Silence for reflection.

Responsory

Psalm 31:5



L In-to Your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Meditation on the Psalm



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voice,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,



Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
 With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,



Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
 And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
 The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;



With countless gifts of love And still is ours to-day.
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ Prayer ✠

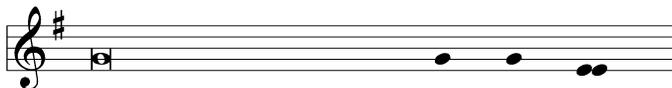
Kneel or Remain Standing



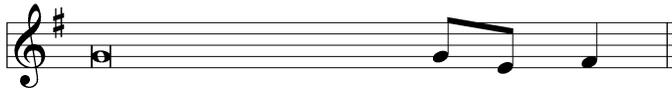
L Hear my prayer, O Lord;



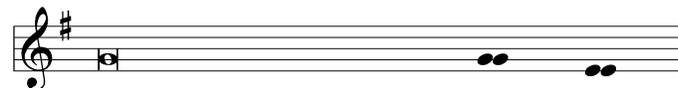
C listen to my cry.



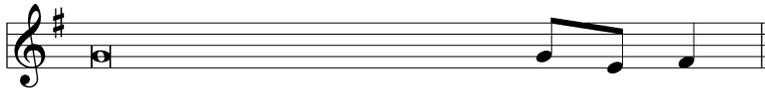
L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



C hide me in the shadow of Your wings.



L In righteousness I shall see You;



C when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

One or more of the following are prayed.

- L** Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- L** O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- L** Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- L** Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- L** Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- L** Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.



C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 957

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

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,
Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as
it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly
bread; and for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give
those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -
to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -
ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2: 29–32

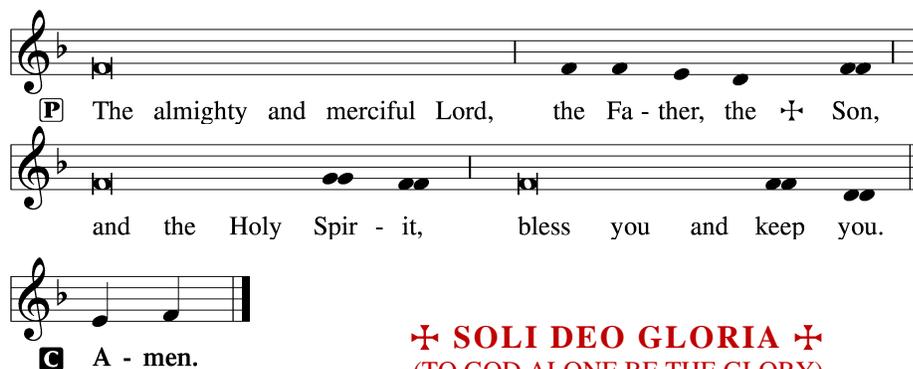
Antiphon



L Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing
that a - wake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

C Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful - filled.
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared
in the sight of ev - ry peo - ple: a light to reveal You to the na - tions
and the glory of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the
Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for -
Antiphon
ev - er. A - men. Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
and guard us sleep - ing that a - wake we may
watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Benediction



P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Fa - ther, the ✠ Son,
and the Holy Spir - it, bless you and keep you.

C A - men.

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

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