

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious upon you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.
People: Amen.

Closing Hymn of Praise: “Now Thank We All Our God” REC 50

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Dressed for the Feast

Thanksgiving Eve

PRELUDE

Welcome

Ringinɡ of the Bells

A Hymn of Thanksgiving: “We Praise You, O God”
REC 35 verses 1 & 2

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen! He is our God! In him we live and move and have our being.

Pastor: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name!
ALL: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Pastor: The eyes of all look to the Lord, and he gives them their food. He opens his hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing.
ALL: He has brought us into a good land, a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills.

Pastor: When we have eaten and are satisfied, let us praise the Lord for the good land he has given us.
ALL: Let us not forget the Lord or fail to observe his commands. It is he who gives ability to produce wealth, and so he confirms his covenant of grace and blessing.

Pastor: God has given us great and precious promises – and they are all surely “Yes” in Christ. He says to us: “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I hold you in my hand.
ALL: “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he; I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you.”

Pastor: Therefore, let us not be anxious about life, what we will eat or wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.
ALL: Let us seek first the heavenly Father’s kingdom and righteousness – and all we need for daily living will be given to us as well.

Pastor: God is able to make all grace abound, so that, having all we need for our own lives, we can be generous to supply the needs of others.



ALL: Being rich in things, we must be careful not to put our trust in uncertain riches, but in God. He is the one who provides us with everything – both for our enjoyment and to equip us to help others.

Pastor: We are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous and willing to share.

ALL: In this way God will supply some of the needs of the poor through us, and we will lay up treasure for ourselves in the coming age – as we take hold on the life that is truly life.

Pastor: Let us pray.

ALL: Heavenly Father, Giver of all good things, we thank You this day for the abundance with which You have blessed us. But as we do so, we must confess that too often we are self-congratulating as we receive them and self-serving as we enjoy them. We sometimes fail to acknowledge You as the Giver; we often fail to implement Your desire to help others through what You give us. Forgive us, Lord. Guide us to make this Thanksgiving Day an occasion on which we again dedicate ourselves to conscious thankfulness toward You for all we are and have; inspire us to practice willing generosity toward those who are in need. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Pastor: In that spirit we lift our hearts again in song: “We Praise You, O God” REC 35 verse 3

Reading of The Legacy of the First Thanksgiving

The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 61:10-11*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reading of Thanksgiving Proclamations

The Epistle Lesson: *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Song of Praise: “Give Thanks” W&P 41

Reading of An Open-Handed Thanksgiving

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:11-14

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon Appropriate Dress for the Feast Matthew 22:11-14

A Hymn of Faith and Thanksgiving: “We Lift our Voices” Sung to the Tune of REC 268
The Thanksgiving Offering

RESPONSIVE PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING:

Pastor: Heavenly Father, on this day we happily remember and celebrate the many blessings You have poured out on us in Your love.

ALL: And as we celebrate at our Thanksgiving Feasts we surely want to be appropriately dressed.

Pastor: Help us, Father, to put off the doubt and disbelief that rise out of our sinful natures and rob us of confidence and thankfulness and joy.

ALL: As Your children, we want, instead, to put on faith – so we may go through life rejoicing in our Savior’s forgiving love and trusting Your continuing supply of all our needs.

Pastor: Help us, Father, to put off the anxieties and fears that rise out of our sinful natures and rob us of security and stability and productivity.

ALL: As Your children, we want, instead, to put on hope – so we may live our daily lives in full assurance of Your loving presence with us, and enjoy the security for our todays, our tomorrows, and our eternity, that can come only from You.

Pastor: Help us, Father, to put off the selfishness and shortsightedness that rise out of our sinful natures and rob us of the ability to give ourselves for the benefit of others.

ALL: As Your children, we want, instead, to put on love – so we may live our daily lives imitating You and Your Son, and learn to give ourselves willingly to benefit those around us, as he gave himself for us.

Pastor: Thus, by Your grace, clothed with our Lord Jesus Christ himself, appropriately dressed for our Thanksgiving Feast, our celebrating will be to Your greater glory as our heavenly Father.

ALL: Then our Thanksgiving Feast will surely produce in us a greater appreciation of the abundant life that Jesus came to give us – and will lead others to give You glory, and to want to be Dressed For The Feast.

Pastor: We sum up all of our petitions and our praise in the words Your Son has taught us:

ALL: 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.

Pastor: Our heavenly Father is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us.

ALL: To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.