



THANKSGIVING DAY is the most purely religious holiday in the life of our nation. While the spiritual meaning of Christmas and Easter are often overshadowed by secular influences, Thanksgiving remains directly and solely focused upon God and His gifts. The Westminster Confession of Faith speaks of “thanksgivings upon special occasions” as valid and important religious observances (XXI.5).

Our national observance of Thanksgiving is unique. It is both distinctly Christian and thoroughly American, a holiday for celebrating faith, family, and freedom.

THANKSGIVING DAY

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 23, 2023

THE THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

After enduring religious persecution in their native England and for twelve years in Holland, the pilgrims sailed for America. They were modest men and women with a great hope and inward zeal. They rested in the providence of God that He was leading them to a land of religious freedom to advance the gospel of the kingdom of Christ. The voyage of the Mayflower took twice as long as Christopher Columbus' voyage, enduring several wintry storms. After arriving in their new land, they faced disease, famine, bitter cold, and many dangers. However, when the Mayflower made its return voyage, none of the pilgrims chose to leave. By autumn of 1621, their own seed had barely grown, but the Indians showed them how to plant corn which yielded a plentiful harvest. On the first Thanksgiving, they celebrated God's goodness to them with a party of ninety native guests. Their Thanksgiving feast lasted three days and included a festival of sports.

We pray the Lord's grace and bountiful blessings on us this Thanksgiving as we celebrate His goodness to us.

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving ... be thankful unto Him and bless His name.”

Psalm 100:4

SILENT PRAYER UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

O Most Merciful Father, Who has blessed the labors of the husbandman in the returns of the fruits of the earth; we give You humble and hearty thanks for this Your bounty; beseeching You to continue Your loving kindness to us, that our land may still yield her increase, to Your glory and our comfort; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Prelude

Cantata 79, *NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT*, BWV 79

Johann Sebastian Bach

*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. – 2 Corinthians 9:10*

The Striking of the Hour

The Christian Greeting

Rev. Bill Clark, *Interim Minister*

† The Call to Worship – Psalm 7:17, 54:6, 108:3-4 (*congregation reads bold type*)

Give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness,
And sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, For it is good.

I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to You among the nations.

For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens;

ALL: Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

•† The Hymn No. 333

We Gather Together

KREMSER

† The Prayer of Invocation

† The Prayer of Thanksgiving (*in unison*)

adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, Your unworthy servants,
give You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving kindness to us
and to all whom You have made.**

**We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for Your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**Give us each such an awareness of Your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts
we may show forth Your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to Your service, and by walking before You
in holiness and righteousness all our days;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with You and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

•† The Doxology – No. 650 in *The Hymnal*

OLD HUNDREDTH

The Reading of the Word – Matthew 11:11-30

pew Bible page 1037

The Homily

Jesus Giving Thanks

Rev. Clark

The Thanksgiving Collection

The Thanksgiving Offering is received for the ministry of Friendship Mission, which provides shelter to the homeless and food for the hungry, along with spiritual nourishment for all who enter. Your generous offering will bring encouragement not only to those who live in desperate need but also to those who reach out in the name of Christ.

The Offertory *Ritornello on NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT* David Schelat
*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever! – 1 Chronicles 16:34*

• † The Hymn No. 60 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* RESIGNATION

The Thanksgiving Testimonials

*I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.
I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds. — Psalm 77:11-13*

† A Prayer for Our Country (*sung by all*) AMERICA

**Our father's God, to Thee, Author of liberty, to Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, great God, our King!**

**Not for this land alone, but be God's mercies shown, from shore to shore;
And may the nations see that men should brothers be,
And form one family, the whole world o'er.**

† The Benediction

† The Three-fold Amen – No. 657 in *The Hymnal*

The Postlude *Chorale-Improvisation on NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT* Sigfried Karg-Elert
*The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. – Psalm 28:7*



*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are
strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to
all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the Name of
the Lord Jesus Christ.*

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) • trinitypca.org