

*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 exclusively American, a holiday for celebrating faith, family, and freedom.*

## **THANKSGIVING DAY WORSHIP**

**NOVEMBER 23, 2017**

# THE THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

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## THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

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*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 returned with it. Their first harvest occurred in the autumn of 1621. Their own seed had barely grown, but the Indians had shown them how to plant corn which yielded a huge harvest. On the first Thanksgiving, they celebrated God's goodness to them with a party of ninety Indians. 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.*

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The Prelude     O That I Had a Thousand Voices to Proclaim My Grateful Song     Manz

The Striking of the Hour

The Christian Greeting

† The Call to Worship                                  Psalm 105:1-2

Minister:     Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds  
among the peoples!

**People:     Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!**

Minister:     God is good!

**People:     All the time!**

Minister:     All the time!

**People:     God is good!**

† The Hymn No. 55                                  *To God Be the Glory*                                  TO GOD BE THE GLORY

† The Invocation (in unison)

**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 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 Responsive Reading

Psalm 118

(Page 828 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

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† *Congregation, please stand as able*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see:*

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain.*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
*Refrain.*

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## The Thanksgiving Collection

*The Thanksgiving Offering is taken 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. Tammy Middleton, who serves as the executive director, established new guidelines under the motto of OFFERING A HAND UP—NOT A HAND OUT. While some senior citizens are recognized as long term residents, the goal is to help people become self-sustaining through job skill training, counseling and discipleship. As many as 50 men are housed at the Mobile Highway men's shelter. A women's and children's shelter in Chisolm has dormitory style space for 18 women and six family apartments for mothers with children. Volunteers are needed and are always welcome to teach, counsel, and assist in meal preparation. 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

*I Thank Thee, O My God*

arr. Kevin Sadowski

The Thanksgiving Testimonials    Psalm 77:11-13; 118:17

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.  
Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?  
I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Concluding Prayer

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who guides us and leads to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
'til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.

His law He enforces; the stars in their courses,  
the sun in its orbit, obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.  
We too should be voicing out love and rejoicing,  
with glad adoration a song let us raise,  
'til all things now living unite in Thanksgiving  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

† The Benediction of God's Grace and the Congregation's AMEN

Now to Him Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,  
according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ  
Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **AMEN.**



## **THE ADVENT SEASON AT TRINITY**

### **November 26 at 6:00 PM ~ Winter Grace**

*A communion service with readings, prayers, and songs focused on comfort, healing, and hope.*

### **December 3 at 6:00 PM ~ Children's Choirs Christmas Service**

*The Cherub, Seraphim, Trinity Girls, and Trinity Boys Choirs will lead a candlelight service of Christmas music. Homily by Claude E. McRoberts, III.*

### **December 10 at 6:00 PM ~ An Italian Christmas with the Trinity Youth Choir**

*The Trinity Youth Choir will present Vivaldi's Gloria accompanied by chamber orchestra. Homily by Kurt Cooper.*

### **December 17 at 4:00 and 6:00 PM ~ 22nd Annual Service of Lessons and Carols**

*A beloved Christmas tradition at Trinity featuring the Chancel Choir with orchestra and organ. A festive prelude will precede each service.*

### **December 24 at 10:00 AM ~ Christmas Eve Morning Worship**

*A family-oriented worship service with singing, children's sermon, and homily. An infant nursery will be available. No Sunday School.*

### **December 24 at 4:00 and 6:00 PM ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion**

*Holy Communion services with music from the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists. Homily by Claude E. McRoberts, III.*

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**Continental Congress Thanksgiving Proclamation 1782:  
By the United States in Congress assembled.**

**PROCLAMATION**

It being the indispensable duty of all Nations, not only to offer up their supplications to **ALMIGHTY GOD**, the giver of all good, for His gracious assistance in a time of distress, but also in a solemn and public manner to give Him praise for His goodness in general, and especially for great and signal interpositions of His providence in their behalf: Therefore the United States in Congress assembled, taking into their consideration the many instances of divine goodness to these States, in the course of the important conflict in which they have been so long engaged; the present happy and promising state of public affairs; and the events of the war, in the course of the year now drawing to a close; particularly the harmony of the public Councils, which is so necessary to the success of the public cause; the perfect union and good understanding which has hitherto subsisted between them and their Allies, notwithstanding the artful and unwearied attempts of the common enemy to divide them; the success of the arms of the United States, and those of their Allies, and the acknowledgment of their independence by another European power, whose friendship and commerce must be of great and lasting advantage to these States:----Do hereby recommend to the inhabitants of these States in general, to observe, and request the several States to interpose their authority in appointing and commanding the observation of **THURSDAY** the twenty-eighth day of **NOVEMBER** next, as a day of solemn **THANKSGIVING to GOD** for all His mercies: and they do further recommend to all ranks, to testify to their gratitude to **GOD** for His goodness, by a cheerful obedience of His laws, and by promoting, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness.

*Done in Congress, at Philadelphia, the eleventh day of October, in the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred eighty-two, and of our Sovereignty and Independence, the seventh.*



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A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)