

364 DAYS OF THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving Series
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church
365 W. Grand Ave Laramie, WY
November 20, 2016



WELCOME TO LIVING SHEPHERD!

A FEW NOTES BEFORE WORSHIP

- *We're so glad you joined us for worship today!*
- *Restrooms are located on your right and on your left immediately after you walk through the double doors next to the fire place.*
- *We love having children in our worship service! However, if your child becomes restless, the café (first door on the left past the restrooms) is a great place to regroup and grab a cup of coffee.*
- *You are our guest! If there is something else we can help you with, please let any one of us know!*
- *Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this service folder. Lord's blessings on your worship!*

TODAY'S SERVICE

Thankfulness leads to faithfulness. Think of it this way. What's the best work environment you've ever experienced? Whatever your answer, I'm guessing you liked your boss—were thankful for that boss even! Ever experience the opposite? Ever have a job where you couldn't stand your boss? Which one will bring about the best in their employees? The good boss, right? Thankfulness leads to faithfulness. Lord's blessings on your worship this morning!

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices. Who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way, With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

HYMN 610 — NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God Through all our
3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther



hands and voic - es, Who won - drous things has done,
life be near us, With ev - er - joy - ful hearts
now be giv - en, The Son, and him who reigns



In whom his world re - joic - es, Who from our
And bless - ed peace to cheer us And keep us
With them in high - est heav - en, The one e -



moth - er's arms Has blessed us on our way With
in his grace And guide us when per - plexed And
ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore! For



count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
free us from all ills In this world and the next.
thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT (67 67 66 66) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

INVOCATION

*The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross
remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

A THANKSGIVING LITANY

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

C: **Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

P: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

C: **I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

P: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

C: **Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

P: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

C: **I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**



HYMN

HYMN 234 — PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY (vs. 1,5)



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
5 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for
dore him! All that has life and breath,



he is your health and sal - va - tion!
come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear Now to his tem - ple draw
Let the A - men Sound from his peo - ple a -



near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GOD'S WORD

DEUTERONOMY 8:10-18

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶ He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷ You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

HYMN 255 — OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY (based on Psalm 100)



255

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty;
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee;



Zi - on, let me en - ter there, Where my
 Come thou al - so un - to me, Where we
 Here thy seed is du - ly sown. Let my
 Let me keep thy gift di - vine, How - so -
 Let thy will be done in - deed. May I



soul in joy - ful du - ty Waits for him who
 find thee and a - dore thee, There a heav'n on
 soul, where it is plant - ed, Bring forth pre - cious
 e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en; May thy Word still
 un - dis - turbed draw near thee While thou dost thy



an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed is this
 earth must be. To my heart, oh, en - ter
 sheaves a - lone, So that all I hear may
 o'er me shine As my guid - ing star through
 peo - ple feed. Here of life the foun - tain



place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
 thou; Let it be thy tem - ple now!
 be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 life, As my com - fort in all strife.
 flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER (87 87 77) Joachim Neander, 1650–80, alt.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-18

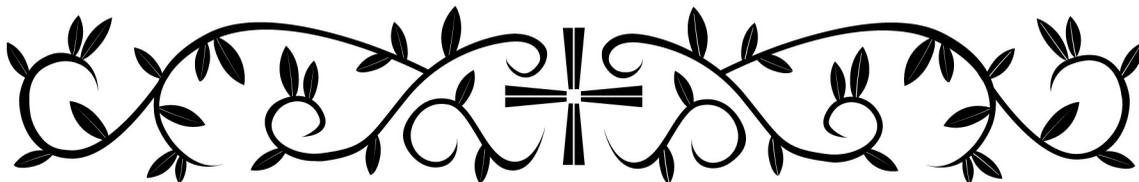
It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.

*HYMN 613 — COME, YOU THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME
(The children may come forward during verse 3 for the children's devotion)*



613

Come, You Thankful People, Come



1 Come, you thank - ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of
 2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to his
 3 For the Lord our God shall come And shall take his
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To your fi - nal



har - vest - home. All be safe - ly gath - ered in
 praise to yield; Wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown,
 har - vest home, From his field shall in that day
 har - vest - home; Gath - er all your peo - ple in,



Ere the win - ter storms be - gin. God our mak - er
 Un - to joy or sor - row grown. First the blade and
 All of - fens - es purge a - way, Give his an - gels
 Free from sor - row, free from sin, There, for - ev - er



shall pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied. Come to
 then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear. Lord of
 charge at last In the fire the weeds to cast, But the
 pu - ri - fied, In your gar - ner to a - bide. Come with



God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest - home.
 har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
 fruit - ful ears to store In his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 all your an - gels, come; Raise the glo - rious har - vest - home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt.

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR (77 77 D) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

MATTHEW 25:14-30

THANKFULNESS LEADS TO FAITHFULNESS

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ “ ‘Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

MARTIN LUTHER'S EXPLANATION TO THE THIRD ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLE'S CREED

C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.

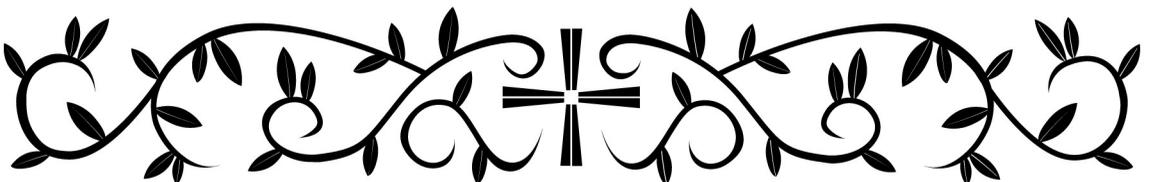
For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.
This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, the people of Living Shepherd
offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks
to him. To those visiting, you are our guests.
While your gifts are welcome, please
do not feel obligated to give.*

WORSHIP REGISTERS

*Thanks for visiting us today! We'd love to have a record of your visit!
Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*



THANKSGIVING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

C: **God's love is everlasting.**

P: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

C: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

P: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: For the young; for their high hopes; for their candid criticism; for their search for freedom:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; for time made precious by its passing:

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear us and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare. And we join to pray as he taught us.

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.**

BLESSING

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.

*The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them],
and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

*HYMN 728 — JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN
(printed on the next page of your service folder)*

728

Jerusalem the Golden



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With
 2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The
 3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The



milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -
 home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed
 day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the



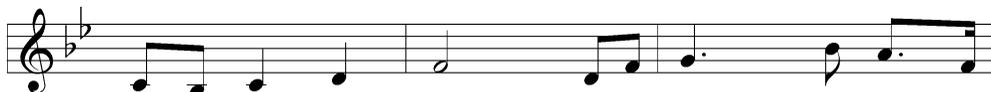
fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I
 coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where
 bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There



know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us
 they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the
 is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -



there, What ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, What
 fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are
 leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The



bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -
 clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy
 song of them that feast. To God en - throned in



end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -
bring us To that dear land of rest Where
glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The



midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound-ing full with song.
sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.
Lamb for-ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

This twelfth century hymn, first conceived by Bernard of Cluny, depicts an idyllic, heavenly scene. The hymn is gloriously set to the English folk tune THAXTED.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th century

Tune: THAXTED (76 76 76 D) Gustav Holst, 1874–1934, alt.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®.

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WELCOME!

We welcome everyone here today and thank you for joining us for Worship! We hope that you will join us again soon.

POT LUCK AND OPEN FORUM

Join us after worship today for a thanksgiving pot luck and open forum. We'll discuss the latest on our building project!



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Call or Text Anytime!!

