



# GIVE *thanks*

to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34



# THANKSGIVING DAY

## OUR SYMPHONY OF THANKSGIVING

November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022



### OPENING HYMN

### “Now Thank We All Our God”

CW 597

**1** Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices,  
Who from our mother’s arms Has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

**2** Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
With ever-joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in his grace And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.

**3** All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav’n adore!  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

*Please Stand*

### INVOCATION

**M:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.  
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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Be Seated*

*Refrain*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.\*

Worship the LORD with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs.\*

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.

*Refrain*

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;\*

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain*

**A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE —  
A SYMPHONY OF THANKSGIVING**

**THANKFUL FOR LIFE**

**Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7:** *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

**Acts 17:24-28:** *"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set*

*for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'*

## **HYMN**

### **"All People that on Earth Do Dwell"**

**CW 601**

**1 All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Serve him with joy, his praises tell;  
Come now before him and rejoice!**

**3 O enter then his gates with joy;  
Within his courts his praise proclaim.  
Let thankful songs your tongues employ,  
O bless and magnify his name.**

**2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
He formed us all without our aid.  
We are the flock he comes to feed,  
The sheep who by his hand were made.**

**4 Trust that the Lord our God is good,  
His mercy is forever sure.  
His faithfulness at all times stood  
And shall from age to age endure.**

## **THANKFUL FOR NEW LIFE**

**John 3:1-8:** *Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

**Romans 6:2-11:** *By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

**1** All who believe and are baptized  
 Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
 Baptized into the death of Christ,  
 They are a new creation.  
 Through Christ's redemption they shall stand  
 Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
 Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

**2** With one accord, O God, we pray:  
 Grant us your Holy Spirit.  
 Help us in our infirmity  
 Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
 Grant us to grow in grace each day  
 That by this sacrament we may  
 Eternal life inherit.

### THANKFUL FOR EARTHLY GIFTS TO SUSTAIN LIFE

**Psalm 136:1-9, 25-26:** *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. 2 Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. 4 to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. 5 who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever. 6 who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever. 7 who made the great lights-- His love endures forever. 8 the sun to govern the day, His love endures forever. 9 the moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever. 25 and who gives food to every creature. His love endures forever. 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.*

**Acts 14:15-17:** *"Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. 16 In the past, he let all nations go their own way. 17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."*

**Philippians 4:19-20:** *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Please Stand*

### CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH

**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.**

*Be Seated*

## **OUR GIFTS OF THANKS TO OUR GRACIOUS GOD**

### **OFFERING**



### **THANKFUL TO GOD FOR SICKNESS AND THE TRIALS OF LIFE**

**Acts 14:22:** *Strengthen the disciples and encourage them to remain true to the faith. They said, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,"*

**Romans 8:28:** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10:** *To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**1** What God ordains is always good;  
His will is just and holy.  
As he directs my life for me,  
I follow meek and lowly.  
My God indeed In ev'ry need  
Knows well how he will shield me;  
To him, then, I will yield me.



**3** What God ordains is always good.  
Though I the cup am drinking  
Which savors now of bitterness,  
I take it without shrinking.  
For after grief God grants relief,  
My heart with comfort filling  
And all my sorrow stilling.

**4** What God ordains is always good;  
This truth remains unshaken.  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,  
I shall not be forsaken.  
I fear no harm,  
For with his arm  
He will embrace and shield me;  
So to my God I yield me.

## THANKFUL FOR EVERLASTING LIFE

**John 5:24:** *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

**John 10:27-28:** *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*

**John 3:16:** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

1 Jerusalem the golden,  
 With milk and honey blest-  
 The sight of it refreshes  
 The weary and oppressed.  
 I know not, oh, I know not  
 What joys await us there,  
 What radiancy of glory,  
 What bliss beyond compare.

4 Oh, sweet and blessed country,  
 The home of God's elect!  
 Oh, sweet and blessed country  
 That eager hearts expect!  
 Jesus, in mercy bring us  
 To that dear land of rest;  
 You are with God the Father  
 And Spirit ever blest

## THE THANKSGIVING MEDITATION

### "Our Symphony of Thanksgiving"

*Sermon Text: Ephesians 5:19-20*

*"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

1 Come, you thankful people, come;  
 Raise the song of harvest home.  
 All be safely gathered in  
 Ere the winter storms begin.  
 God, our maker, shall provide  
 For our wants to be supplied.  
 Come to God's own temple, come;  
 Raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the world is God's own field,  
 Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
 Wheat and weeds together sown,  
 Unto joy or sorrow grown.  
 First the blade and then the ear,  
 Then the full corn shall appear.  
 Lord of harvest, grant that we  
 Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 For the Lord our God shall come  
 And shall take his harvest home,  
 From his field shall in that day  
 All offenses purge away,  
 Give his angels charge at last  
 In the fire the weeds to cast,  
 But the fruitful ears to store  
 In his garner evermore.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come  
 To your final harvest home;  
 Gather all your people in,  
 Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
 There, forever purified,  
 In your garner to abide  
 Come with all your angels, come;  
 Raise the glorious harvest home.



## **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR THANKSGIVING**

**M:** Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

**C:** **Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**

**M:** Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

**C:** **Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.**

**M:** Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

**C:** **Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.**

**M:** Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

**C:** **Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.**

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

**C:** **Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## THE BENEDICTION

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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:** *(sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

*Be Seated*



## CLOSING HYMN

### “Sing to the Lord Of Harvest”

CW 508 v. 1 & 3

**1** Sing to the Lord of harvest;  
Sing songs of love and praise.  
With joyful hearts and voices  
Your alleluias raise.  
By him the rolling seasons  
In fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest  
A joyous song of love.

**3** Bring to this sacred altar  
The gifts his goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest,  
The souls Christ died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him  
When at his feet you fall,  
And with your lives adore him  
Who gave his life for all.



**Join Us For**  
**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES AT 4:15PM & 6:30PM:**  
Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>

**JESUS LAMBS OF GRACE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:**  
Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:**  
Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT 1:30PM AND 5:00PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT 9:00AM**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE AT 5:00PM**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE AT 9:00AM**

**NO MONDAY EVENING SERVICES ON  
DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> AND JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**



## WELS CHRISTIAN AID AND RELIEF

Each Thanksgiving we enter God's house to give him thanks and praise for his many blessings to us. He gives us daily bread in abundance—all we need for body and life. He gives us the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ, who fills our souls with the peace of forgiveness and the hope of heaven. Of course, we don't just give thanks for these blessings in public worship. We give thanks through our actions as we love and serve our neighbors. One way to show such love is by helping those who are struggling with various physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. With your faithful participation and generous support, WELS Christian Aid and Relief assists those in need in three ways: **By offering relief for those impacted by natural disasters**, by supporting humanitarian aid projects in our WELS mission fields both at home and abroad, and by **assisting WELS members** who are dealing with extreme medical or financial challenges. Your special gifts provide critical assistance to people who are suffering and result in many opportunities to share the precious gospel of our Savior. We thank you and we thank God for you!

Christian Aid and Relief grant totals for fiscal year 21-22:

**\$1,105,476**

### GRANT SUMMARY

**Disaster relief:** \$306,125 was utilized for disaster relief. Most recently we have provided disaster relief for those impacted by the Waukesha Parade tragedy, Kentucky tornados, Hurricane Ida, and the war in Ukraine.

**Humanitarian aid:** \$509,107 helped to provide basic needs for people all over the world. Home missions receiving humanitarian aid grants include mission congregations in Canada, Nevada, Colorado, Washington, Florida, and Texas. World mission fields in Africa, Asia, and Europe also received assistance.

**Personal grants:** \$290,244 was used to fund personal grants given through our congregations to assist people going through a health or financial crisis.



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To learn more, visit [wels.net/relief](http://wels.net/relief) and [fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief](https://fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief).  
If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area,  
please contact director Rev. Daniel Sims.