

Zion Lutheran Church



THANKSGIVING EVE
November 30, 2014

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Happy Thanksgiving!

This evening in worship we are going to look at two examples of the thankfulness of God's people. First, we'll take a look at the song Mary sings when she hears that she is going to be the mother of the Messiah. Then we are going to take a look at the words of Simeon, who bursts out into praise when he sees the baby Jesus presented at the Temple. Mary's words are memorialized in the liturgy as the "Magnificat." Simeon's words, likewise, in the "Nunc Demittis."

Their celebration of praise and thanksgiving for all God was doing stands as a perpetual reminder that we should be thankful for the many blessings we have received from the hand of Almighty God. And indeed we have been given more than we could ask for or imagine! Not only has God blessed us with wealth and possessions beyond what any other people in the history of the human race have enjoyed, but he has given us the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. We can live our lives knowing that our sins are forgiven and the door to everlasting life stands open. We have peace with God.

But does it end with thankfulness? I've heard it said that we should move from thanksgiving to thanksLIVING. And maybe there is something to that. But even if our lives were lived in perpetual thanks to God, would that still be enough?

May I suggest to you this evening that thanksgiving and thanksgiving are steps in the right direction. Very good steps in the right direction. Steps we should teach to our children and talk to our friends about. But steps. Not a destination. What if both thanksgiving and thanksgiving were steps along the path to trust? What if trust in the one who has given us so much and promised even more is the destination on the path of thanksgiving. What if God wants us to acknowledge that he has given us all we are thankful for in the hope that we will trust his provision (spiritual and material) for the future.

With all that being said, I hope that you will take time to reflect on the blessings our Heavenly Father has given us so that you will be able to trust his provision and blessings for your life (and the lives of those you love, and indeed all people) forever.

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

www.zlcb.org
Office Phone: 412-221-4776
Fax: 412-220-9741

The Service of the Word

The Prelude

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Opening Hymn: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come 892

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: As we come together to express our thanks to our heavenly Father for all He has given to us by His grace, without any merit or worthiness on our part, let us begin by admitting we have ignored opportunities to express our thanks in lives of joy and trust. We have enjoyed what is evil and shunned the good given to us by our God. Taking credit for God's gifts as things we have somehow earned, we have committed the greatest sin of all: we have made ourselves God. Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **O most merciful God, you have given us everything we have by your grace. You have given us unique gifts and talents. You have loved us more in one day than anyone or anything will love us in a lifetime. Yet we have turned our backs on you. We have failed to be content. We have taken credit for what is yours. In your mercy, forgive our sins. Restore us to a right relationship with you. Give us hearts that long to give thanks.**

The Absolution (spoken by the Pastor)

People: Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Service of the Word

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

The Gospel: Luke 1:46-55;2:25-32

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to thee, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

The Sermon Hymn: We Praise you, Oh God

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Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen!

The Collection of the Offering

Benediction

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen!**

The Recessional: Now Thank We All Our God

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† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Music Director	Mark Killinger
The Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Elders:	John Gielarowski and James Neill
The Acolyte:	TBD
The Greeters:	TBD
The Ushers:	TBD
Altar Guild:	Kathleen Conn and Mary Hutula

