



Welcome to St. Mark's!
*God has joyfully brought us together
for such a time as this!*
God's Work Our Hands

Guests and Visitors – Let's connect in life and faith together. "Welcome" cards are in the pews for you to provide your contact information. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the ushers or pastors. Thanks!

The 23rd Sunday of Pentecost

November 13, 2022 8:30 a.m.

Worship Servants:

Greeter: Susan Haire
Ushers(s): Bart Mays and Whitey Meadows
Lector: Tonya Mays
Acolyte: Madison Joy
Communion Assistant: Susan Uzarski

+ *indicates we stand in body and/or spirit*

* *indicates we are seated*

Welcome

Prelude

+ Greeting & Kyrie pages 147-148

+ **Hymn 693 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

(the offering is brought forward by the ushers during the opening hymn)

+ Prayer of the Day

* First Reading Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by



imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God!

*** Psalm 100 (prayed together in unison)**

¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

³ 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.**

**⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.**

**⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Children’s Message

+ Gospel Acclamation Hymn 884 Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 21:1-11, 34-38

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.” When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

* Sermon

+ **Hymn 689 Praise and Thanksgiving**

+ Apostles' Creed page 105

+ Prayers

+ Great Thanksgiving page 152

+ Words of Institution

+ Lord's Prayer page 154

* Lamb of God page 154

* Communion

+ Blessing, Prayer, Benediction

+ **Hymn 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

+ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Congregation Meeting to follow this service

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-Enter into his gates with thanksgiving-

The complicated origins of our Thanksgiving holiday: *Was the first Thanksgiving meal in present-day Massachusetts, complete with buckled, wide-brimmed hats, in 1621?* Or was it an English celebration (different hats!) on the shores of Virginia, in 1619? Or how about a Spanish gathering in what became Texas, in 1598, or Florida, in 1565? Consider the Pilgrims, one of the main reasons they left England was because they were opposed to a non-Biblical “holy” day imposed by the king or parliament (created by man, not God). They would have never endorsed a Government Holiday of Thanksgiving. (*“The First Thanksgiving: What the Real Story Tells Us About Loving God and Learning from History”* by Robert T. McKenzie, Wheaton College.)

Yet we have “Thanksgiving” celebrations. The English colonists in Virginia declared a day a commemoration of their arrival, thanking God for safe passage across a forbidding ocean; the Spanish explorers also thanked God for survival. On the other hand, after a 1637 massacre of Native Americans, the governor of Plymouth wrote that Thanksgiving Days would be “in honor of the bloody victory.” In 1789, President Washington declared a national Day of Thanksgiving to thank God for the birth of a new nation. And the current annual date in late November (which is far too late for a “harvest festival” in New England), was established by President Lincoln’s 1863 declaration, giving thanks for the Union’s military efforts in the Civil War.

So the holiday we inherit is a complex, morally mixed amalgam of different kinds of gratitude: for good harvest, for safe passage, for colonial conquest, for military victory. *Today’s Bible readings from Deut. 26 and Psalm 100 remind us to give thanks to God. Bible passages and faith practices call for “thanksgivings to God” each and every day, when we wake up, when we go to bed, when we eat, drink, rest.* “Blessed are you O Lord our God” prayers are said multiple times a day, even for using the bathroom.

Gratitude is a vital force in the world, a profoundly dignifying act that builds relationships, communities, and healthy human hearts. The science on this subject is overwhelming: in study after study, gratitude has been shown to lead to stronger relationships, better sleep, lower blood pressure, fewer trips to the doctor, fewer depressive symptoms, more patience, and more perseverance, among other benefits.

Worship and Communion are also elaborate exercises for cultivating thanks and praise. In the Eucharist (“Great Thanksgiving”) meal we gather around a table of bounty, remembering an old story, giving thanks to God for safe passage, for life, for peace, and for the strength to continue the pilgrimage anew.

In the end, we’re all “pilgrims.” So start (or revisit) a gratitude journal. Try writing a simple thank-you note once a week. Connect with a friend for coffee and (thankful) conversation. Recommit to a practice of prayer. *And let this year’s Thanksgiving be not just a day of gratitude, but a springboard into a daily life of gratitude, that most human and humanizing of gestures, the most graceful of all social graces.*