

# HOLY COMMUNION

## Thanksgiving Eve

PRELUDE

“We Gather Together”

Helvey

Jean Pontious

### INTRODUCTION

*Today's readings reflect two of the strains that go into the celebration of a national day of thanksgiving: gratitude for abundant harvest (Joel) and civic prayer for a peaceable common life (1 Timothy). The core meaning of Thanksgiving for many of us—a home feast for extended family and friends—is not reflected in the readings; but it is reflected weekly in the church's meal of thanksgiving (eucharist). What we wish for both these thanksgiving meals is that they will go deeper than celebration of one another and our own blessings, to recognize in our true Host one who wants everyone brought to the table.*

Stand

### PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

### A CALL TO WORSHIP AND THANKSGIVING

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

P Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

C **Make known God's deeds among the peoples!**

P God blesses us with gifts of love:

C **With food and clothing, home and family.**

P God blesses us with daily work:

C **And all we need from day to day.**

P God protects us in time of danger:

C **And guards us from every evil.**

P God calls us into relationship with him:

C **And forms us into one holy people, the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**

P Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

GATHERING HYMN

“We Gather Together”

Vss. 1 & 2

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;  
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;  
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.  
so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;

Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.  
the Lord was at our side— the glo - ry be Thine!

## **PRAYER of the EVENING**

A The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

A 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**

*Sit*

### **FIRST READING: Joel 2:21-27**

*The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when God will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.*

<sup>21</sup>Do not fear, O soil;  
be glad and rejoice,  
for the LORD has done great things!

<sup>22</sup>Do not fear, you animals of the field,  
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit,  
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

<sup>23</sup>O children of Zion, be glad  
and rejoice in the LORD your God;  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.

<sup>24</sup>The threshing floors shall be full of grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup>I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army, which I sent against you.

<sup>26</sup>You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
and praise the name of the LORD your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.  
27You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 126**

*The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. (Ps. 126:3)*

A 1When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

C 2Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
**Then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."**

A 3The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

C 4Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

A 5Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

C 6Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

### **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people including rulers. We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.*

1First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human, 6who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. 7For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

*After the reading:*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

**PASTOR AARON LAYNE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH" SMITH AND HUSTAD  
DOLORES GROSS AND JEAN PONTIOUS, DUET**

Stand

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

## THE PRAYERS

A Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors,  
the church, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A We praise you, O Lord, for you alone are God. Give to your church a holy  
curiosity to ask questions and build bridges across difference. Sustain  
ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. On this day of Thanksgiving,  
commit us to respectful and faithful dialogue with Indigenous neighbors  
who find this day difficult. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We praise you for green pastures and abundant harvests. Feed us with the  
fruit of the earth, the work of human hands. Bless those who labor in  
fields and factories for the food that nourishes and strengthens us.  
Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We praise you for leaders who seek justice and equity for all. For all elected officials, we pray. Guide them to prioritize the common good over narrow individualism. Merciful God,  
C **receive our prayer.**

A We praise you for your tender care. Be present with those who weep this day (*especially*). Lead them through their sorrow and tears into shouts of joy. Merciful God,  
C **receive our prayer.**

A We praise you for our community of faith. You have brought us this far by faith. In times of worry and uncertainty, renew our trust in your abundance. Merciful God,  
C **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A We praise you for your saints who now feast at your eternal banquet. Sustain us by their faithful lives of gratitude until that day when we join them at your table. Merciful God,  
C **receive our prayer.**

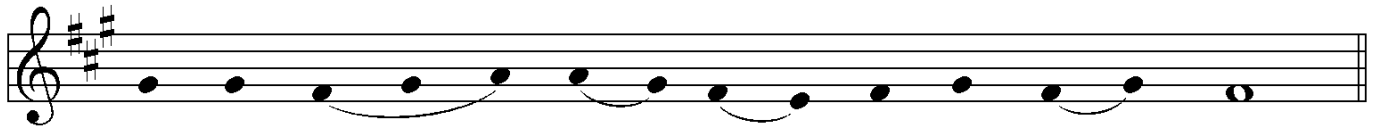
A We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
C **Amen.**



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



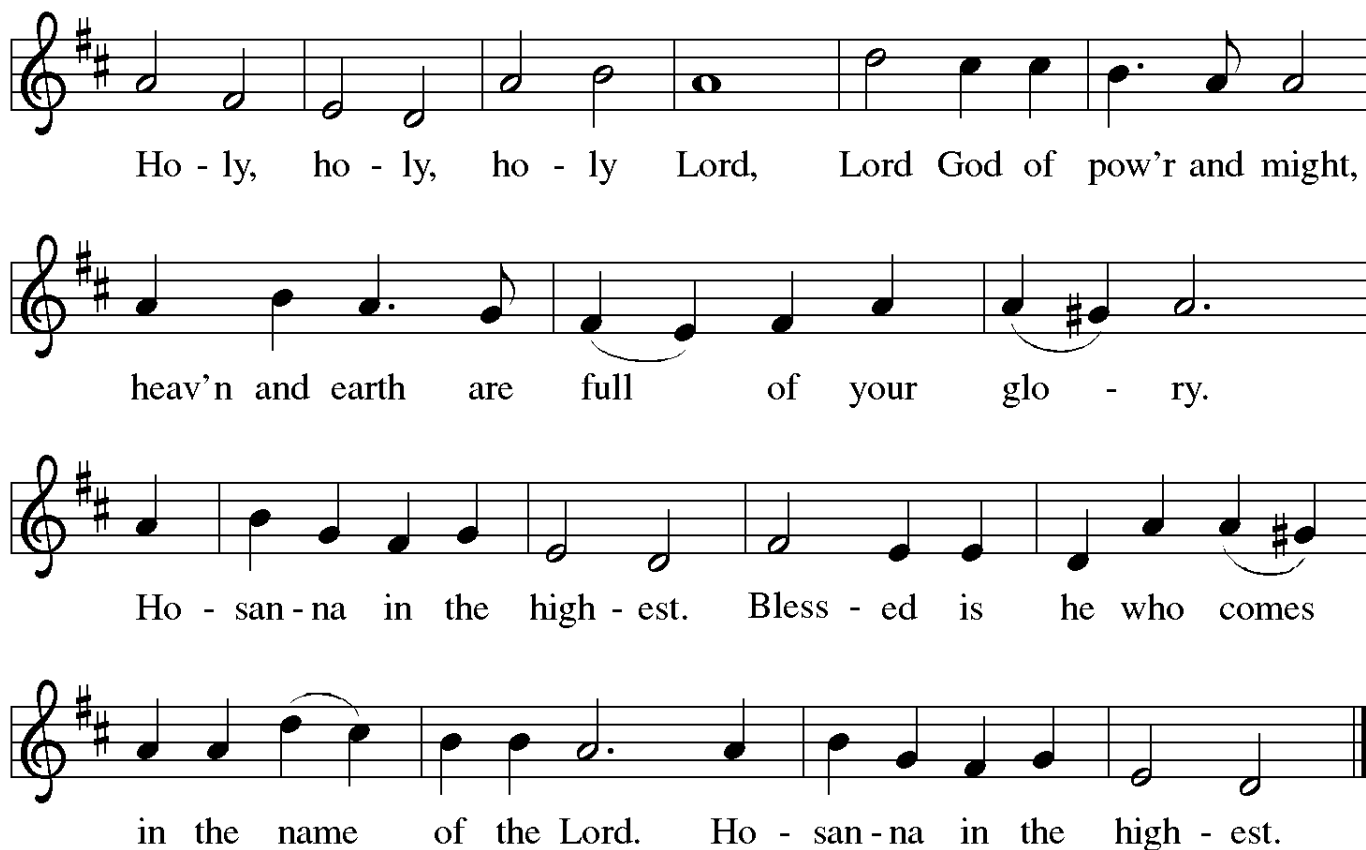
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.  
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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



## **DISTRIBUTION**

**P** And now may the body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His most holy and precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you and keep you to true faith unto life everlasting. May we depart in peace and may the Lord be with you.

**C** **Amen**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A** Let us pray. Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE**

### **BLESSING**

**A** May the Lord of all creation shower his blessings and favor upon you.

**C** **Amen**

**A** May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with his presence and fill your loved ones with peace.

**C** **Amen**

**A** May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days until you come into the joys of his eternal kingdom.

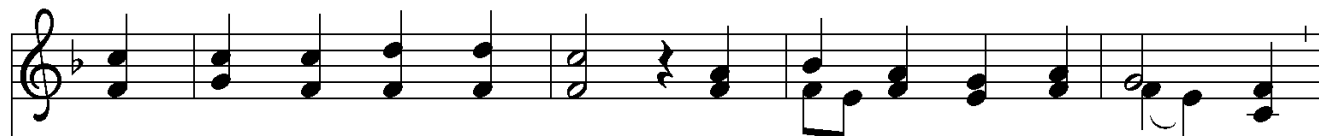
**C** **Amen**

**A** And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

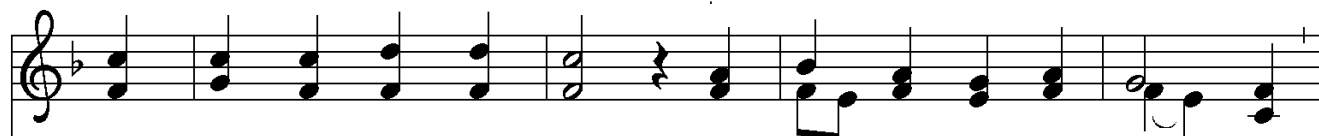
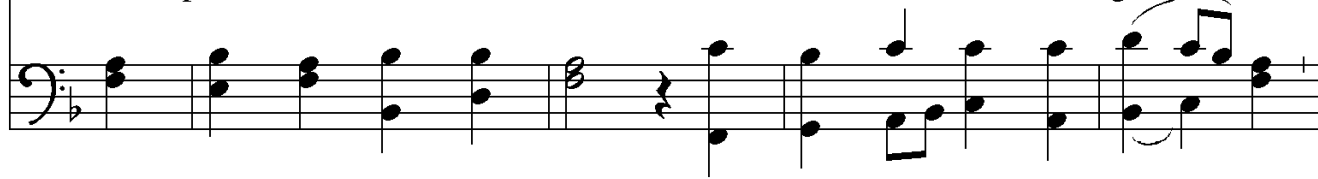
**C** **Amen**

## SENDING HYMN

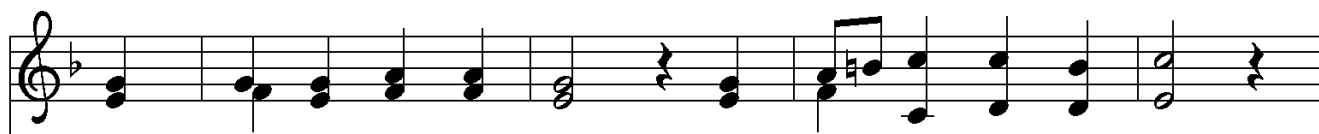
## "Now Thank We All Our God" Vs. 1 &amp; 3 LBW # 534



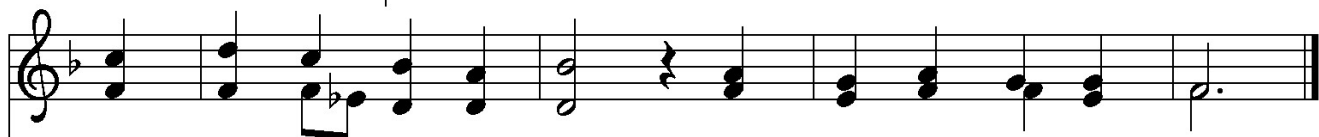
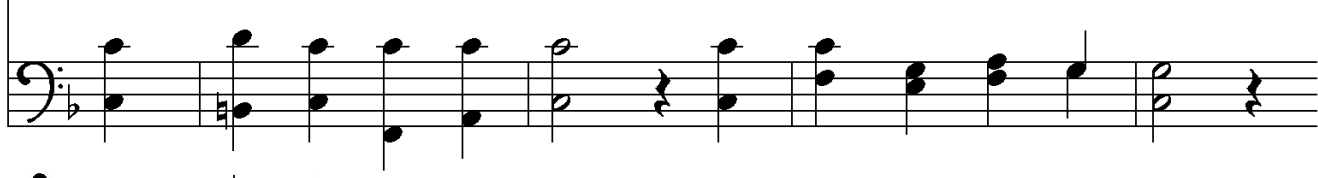
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.



## DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.  
 C Thanks be to God.