

Prayer of the Day

Creator God, 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, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Times of abundance tempt us to forget God and rely on our own power and resources. But God is the one who took Israel out of Egypt, let and fed them in the wilderness, brought them into the land, and gave the power to be productive. To thank this God is to remember and proclaim God's deeds.

⁷For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹ Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Psalm 65

¹ Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion;

and to you shall vows be performed,

² O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

³ When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,

you forgive our transgressions.

⁴ Happy are those whom you choose and bring near

to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,

your holy temple.

⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,

O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth

and of the farthest seas.

⁶ By your strength you established the mountains;

you are girded with might.

⁷ You silence the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves,

the tumult of the peoples.

⁸ Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;

you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

⁹ You visit the earth and water it,

you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;

you provide the people with grain,

for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly,

settling its ridges,

softening it with showers,

and blessing its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;

your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,

the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

the valleys deck themselves with grain,

they shout and sing together for joy.

Luke 17:11-19

A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?' ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' ¹⁹Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray...

Giving thanks for God's abundance in creation, we pray for the outpouring of God's grace on the church, the world, and all in need, saying "Hear us, O God," and responding, "your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all ministries of your church. We give thanks for the work you have accomplished through your people, and we pray for your continued blessings in our ministry together. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Bountiful God, you feed us through the richness of the land, water, sunlight, and ample crops. Bless all those who cultivate the land to bring forth its bounty, especially farmers and migrant workers. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, you order our lives by your providence. We give you thanks for laws, infrastructure, and leadership that structure and support our human endeavours. Align our purposes with your own, that all our undertakings might bring your glory. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you open our hearts in compassion for one another. We give you thanks for the care and healing received through the hands and feet of your servants. Send us to love those most in need of your mercy (*especially those who we name now, aloud or silently on our hearts...* [pause]). Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Hospitable God, you connect and strengthen us through meals and conversation with family and friends. In this time of thanksgiving, steer us from passive receiving to active response, from old quarrels to reconciliation, and from overconsumption to true gratitude. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the love and care we have received from saints who have gone before us. By their example, enrich the generosity of our witness to others. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.



Gloria Dei
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reflection for Thanksgiving, as Season of Creation comes to a close (Sundays and Seasons)...

Although Thanksgiving is celebrated as a one-day holiday in the United States and Canada, Christians have at the heart of our worship life the sacramental practice of giving thanks for God's goodness and grace. In preparation for eating bread and drinking wine in holy communion, we give thanks for God's saving presence in our lives made known to us tangibly in the fruits of the earth. Participating in this meal of thanksgiving helps us cultivate an awareness of our daily reliance upon clean water, healthy soil, seeds, and sunlight. A deep and genuine expression of gratitude for the natural world emerges readily from an understanding of the truly dependent position we find ourselves in as earth creatures. This gratitude for the very gift of life inspires us to be generous in our love and care for the web of creation.

WORLD FOOD DAY is OCTOBER 16

How can women farmers prosper in the face of the many barriers to equality?

Of the approximately 821 million people today who don't have regular access to enough nutritious food to live healthy and active lives, most of them depend on farming. 79% of women in least developed countries earn their livelihood from agriculture yet have less access than men to the necessary resources (such as credit, tools or training) that would allow them to farm to their fullest potential.

Not surprisingly women in most countries are more likely than men to face food insecurity.

In addition to the heavy workload required to plant and grow crops by hand on their small farms, women around the world shoulder the majority of household responsibilities. Women walk long distances to collect water or gather firewood for cooking and caring for children. These are all important, yet time consuming activities that threaten a farmer's ability to cope with declining access to water, soil erosion, and the increasing unpredictability of the weather.

In many places women lack secure access to land they can call their own, and existing cultural practices dictate imbalanced gender roles. These ideas shape who does what on the farm, often leaving women to do most, if not all of the labour. This divide is worsened by the greater freedom of mobility that most men enjoy compared to women, and their ability to migrate out of rural areas in search of paid work.

A first step is to make sure all farmers can produce enough food to feed their families, have enough left over to save seeds, and sell the rest and pay for other necessities. Once the basics are covered, there is room to look at balancing the scales when it comes to decision-making power, time and leadership in the household. Due in part to their central role in childcare and meal preparation, women invest in what matters most, when they have the freedom to do so. They select diverse, nutritious foods to grow and feed to their families, pay to send their children to school, and receive medical care, or improve the infrastructure of the family home.

For the work of ending hunger to be truly effective greater investments in agriculture are required, using sustainable development practices that incorporate the knowledge, talents and participation of everyone. When women and men work together on their farms, share household work, and make decisions together, women farmers will prosper, and their families will flourish. Lasting change is best achieved by creating equal space for everyone at the table – for women and men alike to have their voices heard and be active in building a food secure future for their household, family and broader community.