

"Bless the LORD, O My Soul!"

Thanksgiving Day

November 24, 2022

Greeting:

Pastor: Thanksgiving Day provides us a special time to pause, reflect, and give thanks to God for His countless blessings in our lives. From our early years, we have likely been told: "Count your blessings!" Can you ever count them all? God's blessings are far too numerous! Even when we go through difficult and trying times—and perhaps especially then—it is vitally important for us to learn from the Word of God and respond to the Lord in gratitude and worship. Today we focus on the Giver of all the good gifts we have received, from the food we eat and the air we breathe all the way to the greatest gift: Jesus Himself. With David we say:

C: "Bless the LORD O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!"

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

C: Amen.

P: Jesus teaches us to pray,

C: "Give us this day our daily bread."

P: Martin Luther wrote, "God gives daily bread without our asking, even to unbelievers, but we pray in this petition that He would teach us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

C: " 'Daily bread' means everything we need for our bodily wellbeing. It includes food, drink, clothes, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money and goods, a godly husband or wife, godly children, good workers, godly and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace, health, law and order, an honorable name, faithful friends, trustworthy neighbors—and things like that."

Hymn 792 (Supplement): *Let All Things Now Living*

Gospel lesson: *Matthew 15:29-38*

P: Our Father in heaven, remember the nations of the world, and let peace and harmony prevail. Remember those who govern us, guide those who influence our lives through various media. Remember our children, our youth, our single members, and married couples, the widows, and all the lonely, forsaken, and despairing. Remember the sick, the suffering, the persecuted, and the dying. Send them help and comfort in Your merciful goodness.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration

And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" (Refrain)

P: Finally, Father, we remember before You those who have preceded us in Your eternal harvest and we pray that we may at last join them at the marriage supper of the Lamb, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

C: Amen, amen, yes, yes, it shall be so.

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Benedicamus and Benediction

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

C: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

P: And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

C: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

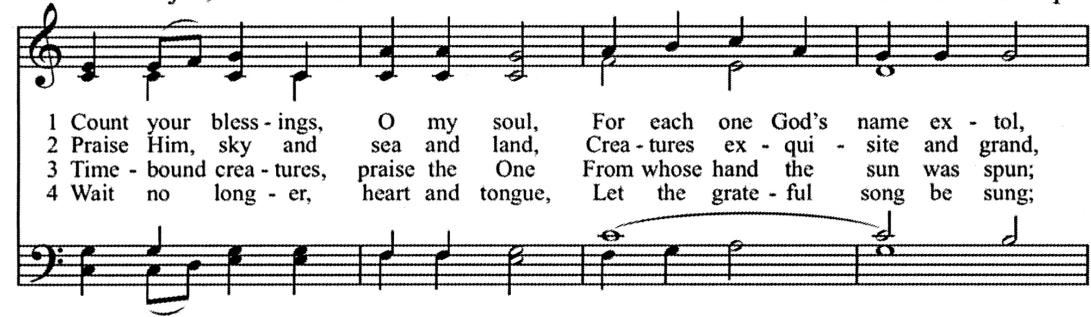
P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

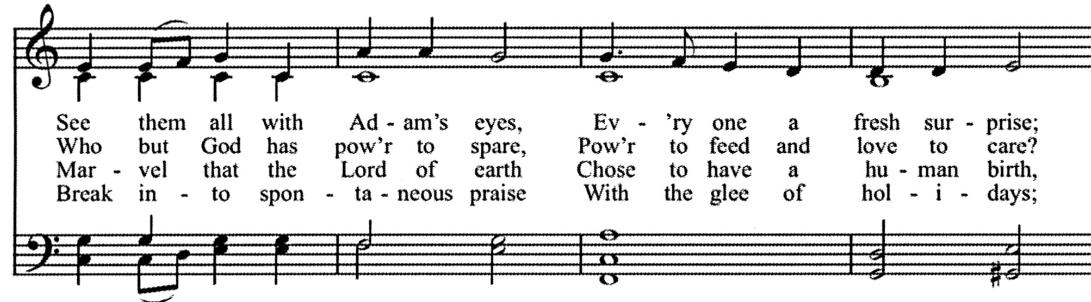
Closing hymn: *Count Your Blessings, O My Soul*

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

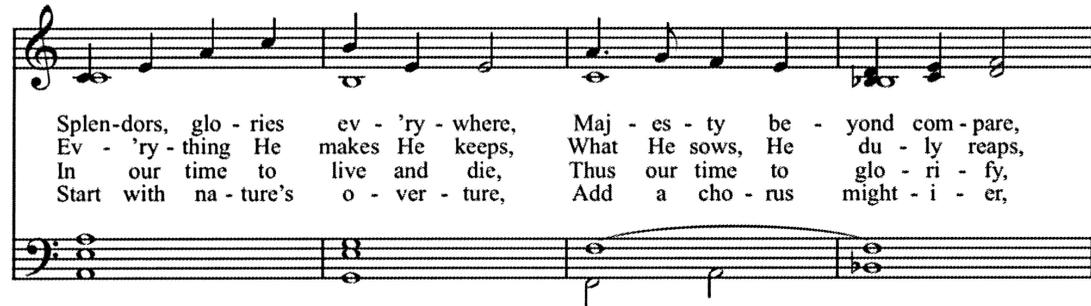
David von Kampen



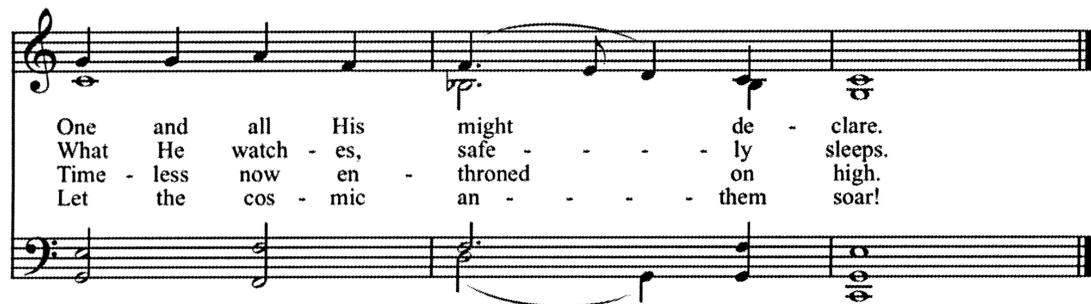
1 Count your bless - ings, O my soul, For each one God's name ex - tol,
2 Praise Him, sky and sea and land, Crea - tures ex - qui - site and grand,
3 Time - bound crea - tures, praise the One From whose hand the sun was spun;
4 Wait no long - er, heart and tongue, Let the grate - ful song be sung;



See them all with Ad - am's eyes, Ev - 'ry one a fresh sur - prise;
Who but God has pow'r to spare, Pow'r to feed and love to care?
Mar - vel that the Lord of earth Chose to have a hu - man birth,
Break in - to spon - ta - neous praise With the glee of hol - i - days;



Splen - dors, glo - ries ev - 'ry - where, Maj - es - ty be - yond com - pare,
Ev - 'ry - thing He makes He keeps, What He sows, He du - ly reaps,
In our time to live and die, Thus our time to glo - ri - fy,
Start with na - ture's o - ver - ture, Add a cho - rus might - i - er,



One and all His might de - clare.
What He watch - es, safe - ly sleeps.
Time - less now en - throned on high.
Let the cos - mic an - - - them soar!

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kingdom come to us and Your will be done among us as true members in the body of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

(Sung)

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.*

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
"How great Thou art! How great Thou art!..."*

P: Our Father in heaven, hear our prayer for the Holy Christian Church, that You will protect, prosper, and extend it throughout the world. We pray for pastors and teachers, that by their life and doctrine they may set forth Your true and living Word and rightly administer Your holy Sacraments. Strengthen those in the mission field, that they may remain strong, steadfast, striving faithfully in proclaiming Your Gospel.

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, (Refrain)*

P: Our Father in heaven, bless, we pray You, our schools, hospitals, homes for the aged, and all our institutions. Bless those who minister to earthly needs, whether of body, mind, or spirit, and grant them wisdom, strength, and love for You and their neighbor. Give us all our daily bread and let Your blessing rest upon seedtime and harvest, commerce and industry, leisure and rest, and arts and culture. Take under Your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who put their hands to any useful task. Forgive us our trespasses, give to all people the mind of Christ and lead us in the paths of righteousness. Lead us not into temptation, take from us all hatred and envy, and whatever may hinder love, and deliver us from all evil.

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. (Refrain)*

Confession and Absolution:

P: Let us in humility and faith confess our sins to our merciful God:

C: Lord, we confess that too often, in this time and in this good land, we take Your blessings for granted. For most of our lives we have had food on the table, clothes on our backs, and roofs over our heads. We stray in our complacency and forget Your Word. We do not always strive to let Your kingdom come to us or have Your will be done among us. Forgive us our trespasses, heavenly Father.

P: Even in prison Paul wrote to his brothers and sisters in Christ, encouraging them to be thankful in all circumstances.

C: We confess that we let illness, bad weather, and economic slumps magnify our anxiety. Instead of hallowing God's name in prayer we rely on our own contrived plans and strength for the lifestyle we desire. We allow ourselves to be led into temptation by society's fixation on materialism and success. Forgive us our trespasses, heavenly Father.

P: When ten lepers were healed, only one returned thanks to Jesus.

C: We confess that when we have been delivered from evil, in our self-centeredness we focus on our sense of relief. Instead of returning thanks we are only aware of our personal comfort and gain. Forgive us our trespasses, heavenly Father.

P: Paul was inspired to write: "God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Indeed, in Christ, both our daily concerns and eternal hopes have been met in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. By the grace of God we can be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him. As a called servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: To our God and Father be all glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 895: Now Thank We All Our God

Responsive Reading: Psalm 103

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul;

C: And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

C: And forget not all His benefits:

P: Who forgives all your iniquities,

C: Who heals all your diseases,

P: Who redeems your life from destruction,

C: Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

P: Who satisfies your mouth with good things,

C: So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Prayer:

P: Heavenly Father, You are the author of all creation. We give thanks that in Your great love and mercy You have entrusted to us so many earthly blessings. Grant us grace to see these gifts as signs of the riches our Lord has won for us into eternity. May we then offer the best to You, share generously with those in need, and enjoy the remainder with thankful joy and according to Your gracious guidance; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament lesson: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Hymn 894: For the Fruits of His Creation

Confession of Faith: Luther's Explanation to the First Article

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind and all my senses, and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all my property, and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil.

God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true. Amen.

Hymn: Praise to God Immortal Praise

Sermon: Philippians 4:10-20

A Thanksgiving Secret

The Offering

(Sung)

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer

For all things living, Created good:

Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,

Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You

That with our neighbor We may be fed.

Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,

Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children,

By Your wise guiding Teach us to share

One with another, So that, rejoicing

With us, all others May know Your care.

Prayer:

P: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name as we humbly ask You to accept these Your own gifts which we offer to You, together with this, the sacrifice of our thanksgiving and the incense of our prayers. And here we present and yield ourselves to You, asking that Your