Thanksgiving Celebration

A Worship Service of Thanksgiving

25 November 2015

Prelude

Trinitarian Confession, Salutation and Votum

Minister: We are gathered in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*

People: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth! *Psalm 124:8*

Minister: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord! *1 Timothy 1:2b*

People: Amen!

Call to Worship Psalm 136:1–3, 26

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

↑ **Hymn** 98 Now Thank We All Our God *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

Call to Confession of Sin 1 John 1:8–9

[8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is
not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive
us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ESV

Corporate Confession of Sin

Loving God, we gather today, rich in blessing, somehow believing
that we merit the wealth and comforts we enjoy.
Forgive us, our God, for comfortably closing our eyes to the faces
of the poor that stare blankly in our direction.
Lord, have mercy on us.

With bellies full of grain and meat, we offer token gestures to the
hungry in our world and we feel we have done enough.
Forgive us, God, for keeping a distance between "us" and "them,"
for closing our ears to the cries of the hungry.
Christ, have mercy on us.

With hands tightly clasping our treasures on earth, we cannot reach
out to our oppressed brothers and sisters around this world.
Forgive us for clinging to our own possessions rather than to you.
Unite us with hearts of thanksgiving, that we may work to ensure
freedom and justice for all.
Lord, have mercy on us. *Amen.*

Declaration of Forgiveness Psalm 103:8–12

[8] The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love. [9] He will not always chide, nor will he keep his
anger forever. [10] He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities. [11] For as high as the
heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward
those who fear him; [12] as far as the east is from the west, so far
does he remove our transgressions from us. ESV

↑ Give Thanks by Henry Smith

Thanksgiving Testimonials

*We invite those who wish to give public testimonies
of thanksgiving to God to do so at this time.*

Thanksgiving Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord who is good.
God's love is everlasting.
Come, let us praise God joyfully.
Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

Let us give thanks to the Lord,
our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer.
Let us remember his mercy,
for he is gracious and compassionate.
We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ,
for putting your Spirit within us,
for giving us the mind of Christ,
for gathering us into your church.

We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us,
for calling us to a life of gratitude,
for calling us to service in your kingdom.
Thanks be to God!

Let us give thanks to the Lord,
for he satisfies the thirsty,
he fills the hungry with good things,
and he heals the afflicted.
Let us celebrate his abundant goodness.
We thank you, gracious Father,
that you provide for all our needs,
for the food on our tables,
for the clothes on our bodies,
for the beds we sleep in,
and for the dwellings that shelter us.

We praise you for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs,
for the things that make our work easier,
for the conveniences of modern life,
for the beauty and pleasure that you bring into our lives.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

↑ **Hymn 363** We Gather Together *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word Rev. Jahaziel Cantú
Sermon Text: Psalm 136

↑ **Hymn 125** Let All Things Now Living *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **The Benediction**

Postlude

↑ Congregation stands as able

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