



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Buffalo, New York
Thanksgiving Service
November 25, 2020
12:00 p.m.

VOLUNTARY

Simple Gifts

Lynn Joyner

WELCOME

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea:
we thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of all people, everywhere, revealing the image of Christ:
we thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends:
we thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, hearts to love, hands to serve:
we thank you Lord.

For health and strength to work and the gift of time to rest and play:
we thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity:
we thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice:
we thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places:
we thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises
given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord,
**to whom be given praise and glory with the Creator and
Sanctifier. Amen.**

SOLO

Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass
African-American Spiritual

Arr. Harry T. Burleigh
(1866 – 1949)

Colleen Flynn, *soprano*

Sinner, please don't let this harvest pass;
An' die an' lose your soul at last.

I know that my Redeemer lives;
Sinner, please don't let this harvest pass.

My God is a mighty man of war,
Sinner, don't let this harvest pass.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

THE READING: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

A reading from the book of Second Corinthians.

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Word is Near You, on Your Lips and in your Heart.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all the 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 endeavors. Align our purposes with your own, that all our undertakings might bring you 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, those suffering from injustice, the pandemic, and front line care workers. 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 Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us share the sign of the peace with those in our homes, and through emails, messages, and phone calls.

OFFERING

Thank you for your gifts and offerings which make our ministry possible. You may share your offering by clicking the “Contribute Today” link below this Livestream and on our Homepage, or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!

SOLO

Simple Gifts from *Old American Songs*

Aaron Copland
(1900 – 1990)

Colleen Flynn, *soprano*

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed
To turn, turn will be our delight
'Till by turning, turning we come round right.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

BLESSING

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Voluntary on 'Kresmer'

Matthew H. Corl
(b. 1965)



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