

November 22, 2023
Thanksgiving Eve

The central part of the card features a dramatic, painterly illustration of a stormy sea. A dark, rocky island or shipwreck is visible in the middle ground, surrounded by turbulent, dark blue and grey waves. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with a bright, golden light breaking through near the horizon, creating a dramatic contrast. Overlaid on this scene is the text "Give Thanks" in a large, elegant, white cursive font. The text is framed by two golden, leafy branches that curve around it, one on the left and one on the right.

LUTHERAN CHURCH
1183 BIG BEND RD.
MANCHESTER, MO 63021

Pastor Sam Rodebaugh
(414)534-7279
sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com
manchester.clclutheran.org

✠ Opening Prayer ✠

HYMN: WS #793

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

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

C Amen.

Confession of Faith

The 1st Article of the Apostle's Creed

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

P What does this mean?

C 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, spouse 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.

Confession of Our Sins

P Seeing all that the Lord has done for us, let us confess our sins and our thanklessness before Him and plead for His mercy.

C Lord God we fall before You in sorrow. Though You have given us many blessings, we so often fail to notice them much less give thanks for them. You bless us with freedom and safety, and we take it for granted. You pour out material blessings upon us, and we devour them, always looking for more, never content with what You have given. We care more about the gifts than we do about You, the Giver. Worst of all Lord, we let the things of this world and our desire for them obscure the most wonderful gift You have given – forgiveness through the death of Your Son. Forgive us for our failure to thank, praise, serve and obey you; send your Spirit and retune our hearts to rejoice always with thanksgiving. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

P Rejoice people loved by God! For your Father has heard your prayer. He has provided a sacrifice; you will not die. By the blood of Jesus Christ, all your sins have been washed away. As a minister of our Lord, according to His command and by His authority, all sins of thought and word and deed, your thanklessness and your selfishness, I forgive in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #568

"We Praise Thee, O God"

Philippians 4:6-14, 18-20

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me-- practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. . . . ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: WS #792

"Let All Things Now Living"

Acts 27:20-25, 33-38

When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned. ²¹ Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴ and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ³³ As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. ³⁴ Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you." ³⁵ And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶ Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. ³⁷ (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.) ³⁸ And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

Thanksgiving on a Sinking Ship

HYMN: TLH #29 *"Through All the Changing Scenes of Life"*

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Thanksgiving Prayer, Lord's Prayer, & The Benediction

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G **Amen!**

HYMN: TLH #36

"Now Thank We All Our God"