

Thanksgiving Eve November 24th

Do Not Fear

Prelude, Words of Welcome, Reading from Today's Daily Text

Liturgy Thanksgiving, page 159-163

Almighty and gracious God, you have made yourself known to us in a multitude of ways, and each of those ways invites us to respond to you with grateful hearts. **You have been present with us even before our thoughts and words and feelings ever turned towards you.**

You created us in your own image, redeemed us with your love, and have always sustained us with your grace.

When we think of you, gracious God, we think of your compassion and tender mercies toward us all, and we are humbled with gratitude.

We thank you, everpresent God, for coming to us in your Son, Jesus Christ, for entering into our human flesh and taking the form of a servant.

We thank you for reaching to the least of us while we were yet sinners and for doing all things necessary for our salvation through the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We praise and honor you with our hearts and lives, because we know that we could not help ourselves or earn our own salvation.

You continue to rush out to meet us and embrace us while we are yet far off. We marvel at the depth of your forgiving love which always comes to us through the working of your Spirit. We thank you for each new experience and each new reminder of your very constant care.

Festal Song

Good news is ours to tell! Let no one fail to hear!

God gives us life; God conquers death! What's left for us to fear!

You have not left us to live alone in this world, but have called us to be members of your body, the church.

We thank you for all those in the past who shared their faith with us and for those in the present who help to shape our response to your love.

We are grateful for the nurture we receive and the mission we have been given to manifest the good news of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

You have not left us without written and living testimony to your involvement in human history. We thank you for the Holy Scriptures and the insights they provide for us in our mission and ministry.

We are grateful for the words and stories of judgement and justice, comfort and renewal, salvation and peace that come to us from the Bible and from the ongoing inspiration of your Holy Spirit.

Hus (22F)

The word of God, which ne'er shall cease, proclaims free pardon, grace and peace,

Salvation shows in Christ alone, the perfect will of God makes known.

For the creation itself and the nourishment we receive from its resources, for seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain, oceans and forests, for the wondrous way in which we are woven into the environment.

We give you thanks, O God.

For all the creative things we are enabled to do through the gifts and talents you have given to us, for the good health within our bodies, minds, and spirits, for the courage and healing that you provide when we are broken and discouraged in the midst of our earthly pilgrimage.

We acknowledge with thanks your leadership in our journey.

For the gift of time and the guidance you give for the redemptive use of our days, for the satisfaction and renewal that come from our labor and leisure, for directing us to do justice and to love mercy, for the chance to begin again whenever we falter or fail.

We are grateful, our Savior, whose faithfulness endures through all generations.

WIR PFLUGEN

We thank you then, O Father, for all things bright and good, the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food; help us to show thanksgiving for all you freely give; to love you in our neighbor and by the way we live.

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

Hear now, gracious God, our words of contrition that we pray in the light of your manifold blessings:

We confess that we have failed to perceive your glory as it is revealed in creation. We have taken the gifts of this world for granted and have not stopped to marvel at what you have provided for us. Forgive us from rushing through life with reckless abandon. Forgive us for trampling upon other persons, places and things, and for not understanding how dependent we are upon one another and the earth itself.

Help us, Creator God, to share the resources of this world as good and faithful stewards. Show us how to tend the land, water and air and to prevent their pollution and destruction. Teach us the discipline of conserving and of replacing what we have used. Deliver us from exploitation. Keep us from idolizing money and material possessions. And make us compassionate in our concern for the needs of others. Amen.

God hears our prayers, blots out our transgressions, and creates a new and right spirit within us. Go in peace and joyful service.

Prayers of the People

Jesus Our Savior **Hear our Prayer**

Hand Bell Choir

Meditation with Youth and Children

Scripture Joel 2:21-27
 Matthew 6:25-33

Sermon *Do not Fear*

Our Offerings Nonperishable food donations will be given to the Salvation Army. Any monetary offerings will be shared with the Moravian Board of World Mission for refugee resettlement efforts and help relief work in Haiti.

Prayer

Closing Hymn

"For the Fruit of All Creation" # 449 vs. 1&3

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.*

*For the harvest of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

Benediction & Postlude

CCLI 172614

This service can be viewed after the service on our facebook page @westsidemoraviangreenbay/facebook or our website, wsmoraviangb.org

Liturgy and Hymns Reprinted or adapted from the 1995 *Moravian Book of Worship* with the permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication, Moravian Church in America. © 1995 IBOC. www.moravian.org; e-mail: pubs@mcnp.org. All rights reserved.