

Welcome & Happenings

Song "Now Thank We All Our God"

REVELATION AND ADORATION

56 Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom His world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and Him who reigns with Them in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - er's arms, has blessed us on our way
and keep us in His grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore,

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all woes in this world and the next.
for so it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858
MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6

Opening Prayer

Glorious God, shine upon us with Your Spirit of wisdom and truth. Enlighten our hearts. Help us to know the hope to which we are called. Reveal Your ways, that we might share hope and joy in all that we do and all that we say. In the light of Christ's love, we pray.

One: Pray for those who are hungry.

All: Pray harder for those who will not feed them.

One: Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

All: Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.

One: Pray for those who are homeless.

All: Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.

One: Pray for the sick and lonely.

All: Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

One: Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

All: Pray harder for those who will not listen.

One: Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

All: Pray harder for those who exploit them.

One: Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

All: Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

One: Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

All: Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture

Paul begins by giving thanks for his readers' faith and love and then goes on to pray for an increase in their knowledge: that they may know Christ better and that they may know the hope that is before them, the riches of their inheritance and the power operative in them. Paul then expands on this mighty strength that is theirs in Christ, a strength which has already shown itself in the raising of Christ.

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Special Music "Shelter Me" Sable Shaw (written by Fr. Michael Joncas, harp arr. By Sharon Thormahlen)

Witness to the Word -Guest Speaker, George Baker

Once upon a time, long, long ago, there was no such thing as the internet. No such thing as email, or messaging, or zoom. It was a primitive time. Communication between family and friends was done through phone calls, local calls during the day and long distance calls were made after 6pm. Or, get this, we wrote letters. Pen on paper, sent through the mail. And it took sometimes a week or more to receive it. And how excited were we were to get that letter? The call of the wild was often, *has the mail come yet? Or did I get anything in the mail?* Some of us had pen-pals from different parts of the world and they would give us an insight on how things were where they lived. And then there were the "wish you were here" post cards received from friends and family on vacation. And let us not forget the Christmas cards. I remember getting mail on Sundays because of the Christmas cards. Aww, good times!

When was the last time you got a letter in the mail? I would think for most of us, it has been a while. Today, it is an instant conversation on the phone, through email, Facebook, or zoom. While this is a good thing, we have lost the art of writing letters. Sometimes they were not the neatest. They contained misspelled words, words crossed out, and sometimes sentences unfinished. No auto

correct, no spell check. You just had to get your feelings on that paper. And many times, they went in the mail that way. I am sure after some letters were written, they were rewritten so they went in the mail perfectly correct.

Of all the writers in Bible, Paul is my favorite. His greetings are fabulous like this one from Ephesians 1:1 & 2:

¹From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will. To the holy and faithful people in Christ Jesus in Ephesus. ²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

So beautiful, so poetic. And like so many of the letters that Paul wrote, this one was probably written while he was in jail.

In today's reading, Paul is encouraging the Ephesians in their faith, recognizing their love, and offering them the hope that faith in Jesus gives.

One commentator reminds us that the main theme of this letter is "God's plan to reconcile Jew and Gentile, which was accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus." Paul is grateful for the Ephesians church's witness of love and faithfulness and Paul implicitly invites the Ephesian church to offer thanksgiving for the "*hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.*"

This month has been a lesson in thankfulness, grace and gratitude. And what an appropriate time for this lesson with Thanksgiving being this week.

My family, like many others, have a Thanksgiving tradition. Before the meal, we go around the table and say what we are thankful for. Family, friends, good health, having shelter, food, and the necessities for living is the common theme. My thankfulness could go on forever, and I don't want the food to get cold, so I do not share this on Thanksgiving Day, but I will share some of it with you now. I am grateful to be alive, in this time and in this place. Of all the times and places in the world, God put me here in the US of A. and in the 20th/21st century.

I am grateful for the siblings I have and the parents I had. My siblings and I want nothing but the best for each other. My parents showed me what love is about being married over 50 years.

I am grateful for the man God put in my life who became my husband and has put up with me for over 46 years.

I am grateful for the son that God gave us. We waited 16 years for him and God delivered.

I am thankful for all I have. In the past, I have had more, in the past I have had less, but I have what I need, now and always.

I am grateful for the places in the world I have been able to see. To see the beauty in the world, and how people live in this world.

I am thankful for the longtime forever friends I have and the people I meet and become friends with. I am thankful for the people in my life that I don't always agree with but I love and respect anyway.

And I know it is reciprocated because I am not always the easiest person to get along with.

I am especially thankful for the people God has put in my life when I need them the most. My personal life savers.

And I am most thankful that God is my Lord and Savior. That He gave me life here on earth and has a room waiting for me in Heaven. I am grateful for all the gifts God has given me like, His love, His grace, His forgiveness and eternal life.

I am thankful for the trials, the hardships and the "what ifs" in my life. Those times give me the opportunity to lean on God, lean on my faith, and know and be glad that He is in charge of all things at all times.

What about you all? Have you learned anything new about yourselves during this gratitude lesson? Are there people in your life that you are grateful for and have not told them in a while if ever? Maybe, just maybe you could write them a letter, a pen to paper letter and tell them what they have meant to you. What a lovely gift that would be.

We all have people in our lives who we have not spoken to for a long time for one reason or another. Family members or friends that have not been forgiven or they have not forgiven us. What about a letter to them, a letter of grace and forgiveness. Another great gift. This is also a true representation of the grace and forgiveness that God gives us. And we, as God's disciples, are to show and give that grace and forgiveness to others.

Gratitude generates gratitude. In the presence of a faithful God is a faithful people, who are open, ready and willing to continue Christ's church for the sake of the world. This is our inheritance as followers of Christ today. This is a great gift to be given!

Please pray with me: *God of faithfulness and love, we are grateful for your presence throughout the ages, for your love shown to us, your hope given to us through Christ Jesus. May we be a people of gratitude and loving sustainers of your church. Amen.*

Song "Healer of Our Every Ill"

2213

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain

Heal-er of our ev-ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,

give us peace be-yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor - row.

Fine

1. You who know our fears and sad-ness, grace us with your
 2. In the pain and joy be-hold-ing how your grace is
 3. Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - ery sis - ter,
 4. You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort,
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion,
 ev - ery broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness,
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion,

D.C.

fill our hearts. _____
 God of love. _____
 be our guide. _____
 fill each heart. _____

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL
88.63 with Refrain

WORDS: Marty Haugen
 MUSIC: Marty Haugen
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Pastoral Prayer/ Lord's Prayer

Song: "Grace Alone"

PERSONAL HOLINESS

Grace Alone

2162



1. Ev - ery prom - ise we can make, ev - ery prayer and
2. Ev - ery soul we long to reach, ev - ery heart we



step of faith, ev - ery dif - ference we will make
hope to teach, ev - ery - where we share his peace



is on - ly by his grace. Ev - ery moun - tain
is on - ly by his grace. Ev - ery lov - ing



we will climb, ev - ery ray of hope we shine,
word we say, ev - ery tear we wipe a - way,



ev - ery bless - ing left be - hind } is on - ly by his
ev - ery sor - row turned to praise }

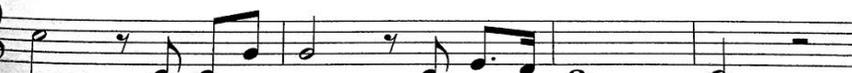
Refrain



grace. Grace a - lone which God sup - plies, strength un -



known he will pro - vide. Christ in us our Cor - ner -



stone; we will go forth in grace a - lone.

WORDS: Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson (Eph. 2:8-10)

MUSIC: Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson

GRACE ALONE
Irregular with Refrain

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Benediction