



Service of the Word: Supplemental Materials for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving for the Word

The Service of the Word in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW, p. 210) includes a time to give thanks for the saving word of God and all the gifts of God. We are then sent to share the good news we have received and care for those need.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship contains two thanksgivings for the word (p. 220): a longer form with assembly responses and one in the form of a collect. These prayers praise the triune God for the gift of the word — the very word proclaimed and heard earlier in the service — and plead for the Spirit, trusting that God will continue to act through the word as we now turn toward a world in need. This prayer is appropriately led from the place of the word. The thanksgiving is followed by the Lord's Prayer.

The supplemental thanksgivings for the word in this resource may be used in place of those found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship and may be further adapted for local use. Options for seasonal and general use are provided. Several prayers reference scriptures that have informed these prayers.

The thanksgiving may begin with the presiding minister simply saying "Let us pray." followed by a brief silence.

Longer forms of the thanksgiving may be introduced with a dialogue between the presiding minister and the assembly, mirroring the dialogue that precedes thanksgiving at the font in the service of Holy Baptism and the thanksgiving for light in the service of Evening Prayer:

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Some thanksgivings have simple assembly responses that echo the presider's words. This allows the prayer to be used without printed or projected materials for the assembly. The presiding minister may simply gesture to the assembly to respond.

These thanksgivings are available to subscribers of sundaysandseasons.com in the Library. Click on the Library tab and then on Sundays and Seasons Resources next to the green leaf logo. Then scroll down to Thanksgiving for the Word (last item in the list). These thanksgivings can be copied to your clipboard and inserted into a worship plan. Just click on the clipboard icon next to the thanksgiving you want, then go to your worship plan and, using the insert function, place that content into your plan.

Advent–Epiphany

Exodus 15; 1 Samuel 2; Psalm 113; Luke 1; John 1

We praise you, O God, for your creating Word!

You set the foundations of the world
and gave breath to every living thing.

There is no Rock like you.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

We praise you, O God, for your liberating Word!

In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed,
you guided them by your strength to the land of promise.

You have lifted up the lowly.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

We praise you, O God, for your life-giving Word!

Your Word became flesh and lived among us,
full of grace and truth.

You have looked with favor on the lowliness of your servants.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

Blessed be God, from this time on and forevermore,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

With Miriam, Hannah, and Mary, we give you thanks and praise for your
creating, liberating, and life-giving Word!

Send us forth in the power of your Spirit
to sing of your greatness and serve all people,
following Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OR

We praise you, O God, for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word! You set the foundations of the world, you lead your people into freedom, you lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things. Our hearts sing of your mercy and might! Send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that our lives may witness to your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Advent

Holy God,
the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.

We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness
and promise a new earth with peace for all.

For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,
who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,
and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.
For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God.
We magnify you, O God.

Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.
Nurture our faith with your grace,
accompany us with your might,
and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.
For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

All praise to you, holy God,
today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.
Amen.

Christmas

Holy God,
everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor,
at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world,
and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.
For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,
to shine in our world's darkness,
to speak peace to all peoples,
and to welcome us as members of your family.
For your loving Word, we adore you, O God.
We adore you, O God.

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,
we may live as your children,
bearing your goodness throughout the world.
For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever. Amen.
Amen.

Time after Epiphany

Holy God,
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,
proclaiming to us your wisdom
and inviting us to follow your call.
For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,
and revived the brokenhearted.
For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.
We worship you, O God.

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word,
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.
For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us,
now and forever. Amen.
Amen.

Lent

Holy God,
our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide,
by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs,
and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness.
For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert,
calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness,
and walking with us into newness of life.
For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit,
that strengthened by your Word,
we may care for others and for the world you made,
and work for justice and peace for all.
For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,
Holy God, now and forever.

Amen.

OR

Gracious God, who has named and claimed us,
calling us your beloved children,
you know the secrets of our hearts.
When we sin and stray from your paths,
you astound us with your saving grace.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

Loving Jesus, living Word,
in you the Kingdom of God has come near;
through you all that was lost has been found.
Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead,
trusting your promise that we need not fear,
for you are with us.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell,
into our scarcity, your abundance flows.
Enliven all communities with your good news.
Guide us to love and serve Jesus,
giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.
Amen.

OR

Gracious God, we have heard your Word of Life today. While our sin is great, your determination to save has proven greater. Thank you for Jesus who leads us out of the wilderness and into the community declaring, "The kingdom of God has come near." Embolden us with the gift of your Holy Spirit that we may share your love and salvation with all creation, through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Easter

Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life:
creating a wondrous universe,
proclaiming freedom from captivity,
becoming the song of your people.
We praise you, O God, for your Word.
We praise you, O God, for your Word.

Psalm 92:5
Exodus 5:1
Psalm 118:4

Your Word is made flesh among us:
with Mary in the garden, you call us by name.
With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe.
With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice.
Your Word names our death and our life:
a seed that falls into the earth and dies,
rain and snow that come down from heaven to water the earth,
a vine in which we abide.
Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last.
We bless you, O God, for your Word.
We bless you, O God, for your Word.

John 20:16
John 20:17
John 10:16
John 5:24
John 12:24
Isaiah 55:10
John 15:5
John 15:16

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things.
Breathe into us your Holy Spirit.
Open our minds to understand the scriptures.
Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands
concerning the word of life.
Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone,
but in truth and action.

Luke 24:48
John 20:22
Luke 24:45

1 John 1:1
1 John 3:18

With every creature in heaven and on earth
and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them,
we join in the hymn of all creation, as
we thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.

Rev 5:13

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.

Amen.

OR

Risen Christ, Living Word, you are the bread of life that nourishes and sustains us. By the power of your Word, dwell in our hearts and reveal to us again that we are the body of Christ: in our vulnerable flesh, though our baptism into your death and resurrection, and in service to the world you love. Be for us manna in the wilderness. Open us to recognize you in every meal and in all who hunger for bread, for human touch, and for healing and hope. We pray in your name, our healer and companion.

Amen.

OR

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating an earth of splendor
and for making us into a people of your own.

With all the saints who have received your Word
we worship you, holy God.

We worship you, holy God.

We praise you for your eternal Word,
for conquering the force of death,
and for raising us up through the resurrection of our Lord.
For your Word alive among us,
we praise you, living God.

We praise you, living God.

Breathe the Spirit of the risen Christ on us,
that led by your Word
we may honor your earth and its many peoples
and serve all who are in need.

For your Word animating our Easter life,
we bless you, loving God.

We bless you, loving God.

All worship, praise, and blessing be to you,
Source of life, Ruler of life, and Power of life, today and forever.

Amen.

Time after Pentecost

This thanksgiving echoes the readings appointed for Lectionary 24–34, Year A.

Glory to you, O God, for your creative Word:

making and mending all things,
evoking the cosmic hymn of praise,
and singing a love-song for your beloved:
your vineyard, your flock, your people.
With all creation we sing, Glory!

Glory!

Blessed are you for your liberating Word:
speaking through Moses and the prophets,
encountered in the Gospels,
and proclaimed in the assembly:
your freedom, forgiveness, and life for the world.
With the whole world we say, Blessing!

Blessing!

Holy are you, O God, for your living Word:
among us wherever we gather,
welcoming everyone to your feast,
and, with grace and generosity,
bringing to earth the kingdom of heaven.
With saints and angels, we cry, Holy!

Holy!

Clothe us in your loving Spirit,
flowing from the Crucified and Risen One,
and keep us awake to your presence
in the people and places you call us to serve.
Glory, praise, and blessing are yours, Holy God,
now and forever. Amen.

Amen

OR

This thanksgiving is rooted in the psalms, especially those appointed for Lectionary 23–34, Year A.

Gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, rich in love, we bless your name and give you thanks. In our need, you make haste to help us. You plant us beside streams of your wisdom, teach us in pastures greenening with truth, and guide us on the path of your promise. By your Spirit awaken our faith, that, feasting on your Word, we may love you more fully and serve our neighbor more faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Summer

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher,
your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word.
All that has life and breath praises your name.
For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
preached your mercy, and called us to faith.
For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word,
that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption,
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.
For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.
We entreat you, O God.

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer,
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

Autumn

Holy God,
mighty Fortress, loving Redeemer, steadfast Comforter,
as vegetation matures in forests and fields,
your living Word undergirds all that lives.
We praise your eternal Word.
We praise your eternal Word.

In the words of the Scriptures you offer us Christ:
our refuge, our savior, our friend,
accompanying us throughout our years
and renewing us in love.
We praise Jesus, your Word.
We praise Jesus, your Word.

We pray for power from your abiding Spirit.
Strengthen us to stand firm in faith,
in devotion to your Word,
and in service to others.
We pray for the Spirit of your Word.
We pray for the Spirit of your Word.

To you be honor and praise and glory,
today and forever.
Amen.

November

Holy God,
our Sovereign, our Wisdom, our Judge,
as nature in the north cycles towards dormancy and death,
we thank you for the sustenance of your Word.

For your Word of life, we give thanks.

For your Word of life, we give thanks.

We praise you for speaking through Christ your Word,
in whom is your authority, your truth, and the justice of your ways.
When we are threatened by dangers and surrounded by evil,
you speak to us of life that comes through Christ's death.

For your Word of promise, we praise you.

For your Word of promise, we praise you.

Grant us the endurance of the Spirit of your Son.
Upheld by the voice of your Word,
may we persevere with courage, energy, and joy,
serving our neighbors faithfully until the end of our days.
For your Word of power, we plead.

For your Word of power, we plead.

Abide with us in your Word, O God,
that we may speak your blessing to others,
today and forever.

Amen.

General Use

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,
for calling creation into being,
declaring forgiveness from the cross,
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

Gen. 1:3
Luke 23:34
John 3:5

We praise you, O God, for your Word:
we praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,
a mirror reflecting our selves,
a shield providing us refuge,
a fire burning for justice and truth.

Ps. 119:105
James 1:23
Prov. 30:5
Jer. 23:29

Your word is sweeter than honey:
it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.

Ps. 119:103
1 Pet. 2:2
Matt. 14:20

We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.
We bless you, O God, for your Word:
we bless you, O God, for your Word.

Ps. 19:10

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,
and to all the cries of the needy.
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,
that heeding your voice of beauty and power
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

Eph. 2:19-20
James 5:4
John 20:22
Ps. 29:9
Rom. 16:25-26

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit—the Source, Word, and Breath—
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.

We offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.

Amen.

Amen.

OR

Glory and praise to you, O God, for your words of promise. With Abraham and Sarah,
Moses and Miriam, Deborah and Elijah, Mary and Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, we
receive your gospel of challenge and comfort. By your Spirit, equip us to serve those in
need, faithfully following your Word, Jesus Christ, our Companion and Savior, now and
forever.

Amen.

OR

Prov. 3:13-18; 8:1-21

O Holy One of wisdom, throughout human history and today among us here, you call us
to walk the paths of justice and peace. We praise you, O God of truth, for your precious
words. Grant that sheltered under their richness as under the tree of life, we live in
gratitude and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, your Word and our Wisdom, now and
forever.

Amen.

OR

Prayer of the day, third Sunday after Epiphany (Sunday, January 21–27, Lectionary 3)
Year C

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Canticle of Thanksgiving


In addition to the canticle “Salvation belongs to our God” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 219), another appropriate hymn or song from Evangelical Lutheran Worship or All Creation Sings may be sung. Some appropriate options include:

ELW 458	Praise and thanksgiving be to God
ELW 679	For the fruit of all creation
ELW 682	To God our thanks we give / <i>Reamo leboga</i>
ELW 683	The numberless gifts of God’s mercies
ELW 689	Praise and thanksgiving
ELW 730	Lord our God, with praise we come
ELW 783	Praise and thanks and adoration
ELW 791	We sing to you, O God
ELW 829	Have you thanked the Lord?
ELW 837	Many and great, O God / <i>Wakantanka taku nitawa</i>
ELW 839/840	Now thank we all our God
ELW 884/885	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
ACS 973	The Word who sang the light into creation / <i>Palabra que fue luz el primer dia</i>
ACS 1048	Founded on faith
ACS 1080	Total praise / <i>Lord, I will lift mine eyes</i>
ACS 1087	Glory to God, whose goodness shines
ACS 1090	Heaven opened to Isaiah
ACS 1091	Hallelujah! Sing praise to your Creator
ACS 1092	Thank you, Lord
ACS 1093	In a deep, unbounded darkness
ACS 1098	Who is like our God / <i>Quién como Jehová</i>

Resources

Additional information on the Service of the Word in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* is found in these resources available from [Augsburg Fortress](#):

 *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Leaders Desk Edition*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006. See “Notes on the Service: Service of the Word,” pp. 25-27.

 Brugh, Lorraine S. and Gordon W. Lathrop. *Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship: The Sunday Assembly*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008. See Chapter 10: Service of the Word, pp 235-244.

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