



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.

ELW contains two options for the Thanksgiving for the Word on page 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 pleads 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 prayer is followed by the Lord's Prayer.

The supplemental prayers in this resource may be used in place of those found in ELW and may be further adapted for local use.

The prayer of thanksgiving may begin with the presiding minister simply saying: Let us pray. This may be followed by a brief silence before the prayer.

A longer form of the thanksgiving prayer may be introduced with a dialogue between the presiding minister and the assembly, mirroring the dialogue that precedes the Thanksgiving at the Font in Holy Baptism and the Thanksgiving for Light in 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.

Supplemental Thanksgivings for the Word

The longer form thanksgiving prayers are deeply rooted in scripture. The assembly responds by repeating the presider's words. This allows this prayer to be used without printing or displaying for the assembly. The presiding minister may simply make a gesture to the assembly to respond.

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

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

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.
Your word is sweeter than honey:
it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.
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. 119:105
James 1:23
Prov. 30:5
Jer. 23:29
Ps. 119:103
1 Pet. 2:2
Matt. 14:20
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.

This thanksgiving prayer echoes the readings used on 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**

Shorter Thanksgiving Prayers

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.**

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.** (*Prov. 3:13-18; 8:1-21*)

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.** (*Prayer of the Day, Third Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 3, Year C.*)

This thanksgiving prayer for general use is rooted in the Psalms, especially those used on 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 greening 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.**

Canticle of Thanksgiving

In addition to the canticle “Salvation belongs to our God” on ELW page 219, another appropriate hymn or song 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 / Reamo leboga
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 / Wakantanka taku nitawa
ELW 839, 840	Now Thank We All Our God
ELW 884, 885	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Additional hymns and songs from All Creation Sings, the forthcoming liturgy and hymn supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, will be added to this resource upon publication in Fall 2020.

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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