

Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Introduction to the day

At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: “You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.” We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God’s creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Times of abundance tempt us to forget God and rely on our own power and resources. But God is the one who took Israel out of Egypt, led and fed them in the wilderness, brought them into the land, and gave them power to be productive. To thank this God is to remember and proclaim God’s deeds.

PSALM: Psalm 65

You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Christian fellowship involves sharing with those in need. Here Paul is gathering a collection for the church in Jerusalem from all the Gentile churches he helped found. We can be extravagant in our giving because God is extravagant in providing for our lives.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - Cultivating Gratitude

Gratitude can be cultivated from a very early age. In some households, for example, everyone joins in a prayer of thanks before each meal. In others, caregivers expect children to share a handwritten thank-you note with anyone who gives them a birthday or Christmas gift. Maybe you remember sharing thank-you gifts with your teachers at the end of the school year, or making phone calls to distant relatives after a gift arrived in the mail. As reluctant as young people may be to participate in these practices, these actions all cultivate gratitude.

In recent years, it seems the field of popular psychology has caught up with what Christian communities have always known: Gratitude is good for us! Scientific studies show that when a person spends regular, concentrated time focusing on gratitude, their overall well-being improves. When we cultivate gratitude by writing thank-you notes or praying prayers of gratitude at the end of each day, for example, we train our minds and hearts to notice gifts of grace, love, and beauty around us. Especially on days when thankfulness doesn’t come easily, it’s important to work our gratitude “muscles” and lay the groundwork for personal resilience and spiritual growth.

In today's gospel reading, the healed man who turned around to thank Jesus is the one who cultivates gratitude. His witness is a model for us, inviting us to consider the moments in our own lives when we might offer praise to God in response to a gift we receive. Whether we experience healing in our bodies or minds, enjoy times with friends or loved ones, or simply recognize moments of joy or beauty as we go about our daily lives, we do well to cultivate gratitude and thank God for these gifts.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

We give thanks for the communion of the church. Infuse a spirit of generosity in your people. Bless relationships among differing religions and faiths as signs of unity and hope. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for abundant harvests and the many gifts of your good creation. Make us faithful caretakers of land, water, soil, and air, that all life might flourish. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for local and global peace efforts. Uplift the voices of Native communities and theologians, and further the work of truth-telling and reparations in solidarity with our Indigenous siblings. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for your tender care. Accompany all who travel; comfort all for whom this is a lonely season, and assure all weary hearts and bodies of your healing love (We pray especially for Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Heather Schruder, Linda Schruder, Harold Warlich, Roy Zadow, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. . .) In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for ministries working to end food and housing insecurity. Open our hearts to your abundance and our minds to new ways of sharing that abundance for the good of all. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the witness of all the faithful departed. Empower us, by their example, to serve you with courage, hope, and joy in the promises of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING (ELW p. 114)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

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Announcements:

Sunday, October 11 - Thanksgiving Sunday

10:30 AM - Grace – Holy Communion

Sunday School Family Day

Monday October 12

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Grace Quilters

Tuesday, October 13

10:00 AM – Bible Study

Wednesday, October 14

9:00 to 12:00 Noon – Tie Quilting

7:00 PM – Community Choir

Thursday, October 15

9 to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus

10:00 AM – Grace Choir

Saturday, October 17

9:00 AM to Noon - Camp Lutherlyn Fall Work Day.

Many hands make light work.

Sunday, October 18 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Bonnechere - HC

10:30 AM - Grace – HC - Sunday School

Helpers at Grace: Greeter: June Barsalo; Reader: Lori Jessup; Communion Assistants: Lori Jessup and Stacey Lance. Elevator: Alfie Rosien, Usher and Bell Ringer: Morley Hass

3:00 PM - Reformation Event at Rankin Recreation Centre.

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Thanksgiving Decorations

Thank you to those who brought items to decorate the church for Thanksgiving Sunday. Please pick them up after worship.

The potted mums in the chancel today, have been placed by the Schauer family to the glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones.

Food Bank

The **Sunday School** invites you to help fill our wagons with food for the **Eganville Foodbank**. This will take place in the narthex from September 6 until October 11, Thanksgiving Sunday. Please show your love to your neighbours by filling our wagons to the top!

140th Anniversary of Grace

Did you know that in **April 2028, Grace Lutheran Church** will be **140yrs** as a congregation? I am looking for your help in the planning for this event in the life of our congregation. If you are interested in helping me plan, please let me know, (Pastor Ralph).

Reformation Service

Sunday October 18, 2026

Rankin Community Centre 3:00 pm

Rev. Matthew Brown, Parish of the Valley – Anglican Guest Preacher

Dinner 5:00 pm - Dinner Tickets \$35.00

Smoked Pork Loin with all the trimmings.

Come Worship and Connect with your Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican Families.

Organized by the Ottawa Valley Ministry Team

Eastern Synod of the ELCIC

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