

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fairland Parish



THANKSGIVING EVE

Vespers Service

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Rev. Dr. Christopher I. Wilkins
Priest-In-Charge

12621 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD

www.stmarks-silverspring.org

Office: (301) 622-5860

Fax: (240) 560-6613

Vespers for the Eve of Thanksgiving

Prelude

Let us weary not in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, our own God, shall bless us.

Psalm 67:6

The Invitatory and Psalter

all stand

Officiant O God, make speed to us

People O Lord, make haste to help us

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn: O Gracious Light

Hymnal # 25

1. O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy blest is he,
and blest are you, his holy son.
2. Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit:
God who dwells in the eternal light.
3. Worthy are you of endless praise,
O son of God, Life giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth
and in the highest heave adored.

Collect for the Day of Thanksgiving

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 126

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The LORD has done great things for them.'
- 3 The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- 5 May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
- 6 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving Proclamation (1789), George Washington

By the President of the United States of America. a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and

Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord—To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789. Go: Washington

Hymn: Come, ye thankful people come

Hymnal # 290

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;

God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;

first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;

give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,

but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come,
to thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;

there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

The First Lesson:

Joel 2:21-27

- ²¹ Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!

- ²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

- ²³ O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

- ²⁴ The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

- ²⁵ I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

- ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. My people shall never again be put to shame.

- ²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,

and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

The Second Lesson:

Matthew 6:25-33

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Reader: *Here end the lessons.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Come, thou fount of every blessing

Hymn # 686

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! O fix me on it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

Homily: Harvest Home

Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us now give thanks to God for the many gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the majesty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

For peace in your church, and unity among your people,

We thank you, Lord.

For the mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To whom be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for the Earth

Most gracious God, we thank you for the beauty of earth and its waters, for the wealth of its mountains and plains, its rivers and deserts, its beaches and its wetlands, for the songs of its birds, the grandeur of its trees, and the myriad forms of life brought forth upon it; And we pray that we may enjoy them graciously, learn from them humbly, guard them faithfully, and ever be mindful of their fragility and promise, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for a Bountiful Harvest

Most holy Lord, by whose might the depths are broken and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seed time and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people.

And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. *Amen.*

And now, may the peace of God be with you always, even to the ending of the age.

Closing Hymn: Praise to God, immortal praise

Hymn # 288

1. Praise to God, immortal praise,
for the love that crowns our days;
bounteous source of every joy,
let thy praise our tongues employ:
all to thee, our God, we owe,
source whence all our blessings flow.

2. All the plenty summer pours;
autumn's rich o'erflowing stores;
flocks that whiten all the plain;
yellow sheaves of ripened grain:
Lord, for these our souls shall raise
grateful vows and solemn praise.

3. As thy prospering hand hath blessed,
may we give thee of our best;
and by deeds of kindly love
for thy mercies grateful prove;
singing thus through all our days
praise to God, immortal praise.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing

through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Romans 15:13

Postlude

*Our services and events may be live-streamed and/or recorded. By entering the service/event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for live streaming, promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on web sites, and/or any other purpose by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. *

If you would prefer not to be shown on camera, please sit on the pulpit side of the nave, behind the videographers.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fairland, MD

12621 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring, MD 20904

office@stmarks-silverspring.org * 301-622-5860 ext. 1002

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Wilkins, Priest-in-Charge

rector@stmarks-silverspring.org * 301-622-5860 ext. 1001

Janis Smith, Parish Administrator

administrator@stmarks-silverspring.org * 301-622-5860 ext. 1003

Don Hague, Director of Music

Joyce Walker, Administrative Assistant

Lee Mericle, Senior Warden * Rosanne Tingley, Junior Warden

For information about St. Mark's, please visit our website:

www.stmarksfairland.org * www.stmarks-silverspring.org

We hope that today's service has been a blessing to you.

We are here to serve you, and hope to see you again.

Please feel free to call us, email us, or visit us online.

Art Photo Cover: [image-1589740564w65.jpg \(1920×1920\) \(publicdomainpictures.net\)](https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/1589740564w65.jpg)