

BETHANIA MORAVIAN CHURCH

THANKSGIVING | REIGN OF CHRIST

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost | November 22, 2020

Prelude

Thanks Be to Thee

HANDEL

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns

The Poetry: Psalm 95:1-7a

COME, YOU THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home,
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied:
come with all his people, come, raise the song of harvest-home.
All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield,
wheat and weeds together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.

Reflections of Thanksgiving

The Old Testament Prophecy: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; yours we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; yours we are.
We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

Prayers for the People

The Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word;
from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food;
and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.

We give thanks to you, Redeemer God, for our Lord Jesus Christ, who came in quietness and humility, but who will come again with power and for all to see. Our Lord Jesus' coming again is a two-edged sword. It comforts us, convinces us anew that your grace is beyond measure. Yet it also confronts us, compels us to recognize our own unrighteousness. Let us put aside our false pride, confess our sins, and receive your affirming love.

Gracious Father, we confess that all too often we do not think of our coming King. We do not live our lives in the expectant and obedient waiting to which your Word summons us. Too often we do not live with the sense of urgency for the task you have set before your church. We put off bringing the gospel to the world and living out your kingdom's values of justice and righteousness. Forgive us, loving

Lord. Cleanse us and fill us with your Spirit and with power, so that at Christ's triumphant return we may be counted worthy to stand before you with people of all tongues and nations. Amen.

Thanks be to God, who has loved us from the beginning, and who promises that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and will purify us from all unrighteousness.

Our Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from the earth. In that day we will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. Let us rejoice in his salvation."

Meditation

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who set us free,
and hail him as your matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of years, the risen Lord sublime,
Creator of the rolling spheres, the Master of all time.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For you have died for me;
your praise and glory shall not fail through-out eternity.

Benediction

Postlude

Rejoice! The Lord is King

WHITWORTH

Citations:

Come, You Thankful People, Come TEXT: Henry Alford (1844 and 1867), alt. TUNE: George Job Elvey (1859)

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us TEXT: Dorothy Ann Thrupp's Hymns for the Young (1836). alt. TUNE: William B. Bradbury (1859)

The Church's One Foundation TEXT: Samuel John Stone (1866), alt. TUNE: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1864)

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Crown Him with Many Crowns TEXT: Matthew Bridges (1851), alt. TUNE: George Job Elvey (1868)

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