



Rudyard Christian Reformed Church

November 27, 2025

Honest Thanksgiving

A Service of Thanksgiving

Expressing an ongoing trust in our Lord

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Gathering Song ~ CH 794 Let All Things Now Living

God's Greeting

Psalm of Thanksgiving ~ Psalm 100

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. Let us remember his mercy, for he is gracious and compassionate.

People: We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ, for putting your Spirit within us, for giving us the mind of Christ, for gathering us into your church.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us, for calling us to a life of gratitude, for calling us to service in your kingdom.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he satisfies the thirsty, he fills the hungry with good things, and he heals the afflicted. Let us celebrate his abundant goodness.

People: We thank you, gracious Father, that you provide for all our needs, for the food on our tables, for the clothes on our bodies, for the beds we sleep in, and for the homes that shelter us.

Leader: We praise you for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs, for the things that make our work easier, for the conveniences of modern life, for the beauty and pleasure that you bring into our lives.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Thanksgiving ~ 10,000 Reasons

Lament and Thanksgiving: Compose your Psalm of Lament by writing down one thing that troubles you, followed by "but . . ." an expression of continued trust in your faithful God. (examples on back of bulletin)

How can I be thankful when . . . ? Psalm 13

Reader: O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever?

How long will you look the other way?

How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart every day?

How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

Turn and answer me, O Lord my God!

Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die.

Don't let my enemies gloat, saying, "We have defeated him!"

Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.

But I trust in your unfailing love.

I will rejoice because you have rescued me.

I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me.

Song of Response ~ O Come All You Unfaithful

Meditation

Prayer

Offering our gifts in Thanks

Scripture Reading ~ Acts 16:22-34

Our Prayers of Thanks ~ "Thank you, God, for . . ."

Song ~ CH 139 v 1, 2 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*God's Parting Blessing

*Our Response ~ Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Sample Psalms of Lament

1

How long will our children wander aimlessly?
How long does it take for them to learn from their mistakes?
When will they be able to express what they believe
in a world that does not follow God?

But we remember your covenant promises and are thankful that they are your children and that you have a plan for them.

2

Why do politicians lie?

But we thank you nonetheless for freedom, for opportunities, the freedom to voice opinions, and for the quality of life we have.

3

O Lord,

When will we feel relief from war, hatred, and loss of life?
There is so much brokenness in this world.

But you are the one to make us whole again and bring peace to this broken world.
We rejoice in your faithfulness.

4

O Lord,

the realities of life get us down.
Choices are made that we don't approve of.
People die when we wish they'd live.
There's hate all around us.

But we choose to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, our Redeemer, for we know that he will forgive!

5

O Lord,

Why do you let dissatisfaction enter our hearts?
If you really love us, why do you let us go through so much pain?
Why do you allow us to be tempted by what seems to be greener pastures?

But we have so much to be thankful for:
Health, a roof over our heads, support of family and friends,
And—no matter how hard it gets—we know we can always depend on you!