



LEADER'S GUIDE

For the Beauty *of the* Earth

A Service to
Celebrate Thanksgiving

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For the Beauty *of the* Earth

A Service to
Celebrate Thanksgiving

Notes and Ordering Information

For The Beauty Of The Earth is a complete order of service for Thanksgiving. The titular hymn is interspersed with antiphonal readings, forming an inspiring opening to worship. Hymns include "We Praise You, O God," "Our Father, Lord on Heav'n's High Throne" and "Take My Life And Let It Be." Prayers come from Psalm 104. Kits are not returnable.

Printed bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code TA2A

Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code TA2B

Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 14") are available. Code TA2C

Call Creative Communications for the Parish at

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For the Beauty *of the* Earth

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Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We invite you to join us for Thanksgiving worship as we give thanks to God our Creator for the beauty of the earth and for all of his gifts—especially the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. With psalms and hymns and readings we will praise God for the beauty of his creation and the beauty of his grace in Christ.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to our Thanksgiving worship! Today we give thanks to God our Creator for the beauty of the earth and for all of his gifts—especially the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. In our psalms and hymns and readings we will praise God for the beauty of his creation and the beauty of his grace in Christ. May our praise today continue on into eternity!

For the Beauty of the Earth

A Service to Celebrate Thanksgiving

Order of Service

Opening Our Hearts To Thanksgiving.....Dix

P For the beauty of the earth,

C We thank and praise you, God, our Creator.

P For the beauty of your grace,

C We thank and praise you, Christ, our Savior.

P For the beauty of your ever-present love,

C We thank and praise you, Spirit of love. Amen.

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Beautiful Earth: An Antiphon

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Marvelous Me: An Antiphon

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Wonderful Love: An Antiphon

For yourself, best gift divine to the world so freely giv'n,
Agent of God's grand design, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Amazing Grace: An Antiphon

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Prayer Of The Day

First Lesson.....Genesis 1:1—2:4

Psalm 8St. Anne

*(In this styling, phrases of the hymn interrupt the reading of the Psalm.
The final chord of each phrase is held softly over the spoken words.)*

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent
In all the earth your name!

P Your praise reaches up to the heavens; it is sung by children and babies. You are safe and secure from all your enemies; no one opposes you.

Your glory fills the firmament;
The heav'ns your praise proclaim.

P When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in their places—what are human beings that you are mindful of us, mere mortals that you care for us?

Your glory fills the firmament;
The heav'ns your praise proclaim.

- ¶ Yet you have crowned us with glory and honor and given us mastery over all that you made.
Sheep and oxen, birds and fish, even wild animals and the creatures in the seas—you placed us
over them all.

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent
In all the earth your name!

Second Lesson.....Genesis 2:5-9, 18, 21-22

Gospel LessonKremser

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

Luke 12:22-31

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Children’s Sermon

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Sermon: For The Beauty Of The Earth

For eyes that can see you, for ears that can hear you,
For voices that sing highest anthems of praise,
With happiest duty we thank you for beauty,
With joyful hearts we bless you, O Lord, endless days!

Offering

Prayers: From Psalm 104

Lord's Prayer.....St. Anne

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth—in heav'n the same.

Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.

All rule and might and glory be to you while ages run
And even to eternity. Amen. So be it done!

(Holy Communion, if offered, is celebrated here.)

Benediction

P Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

C Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

P O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

P Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

C Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

P Let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming.

C Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Closing Hymn.....Patmos

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be ever, only all for thee.

For the Beauty *of the* Earth

A Service to
Celebrate Thanksgiving

Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- The **Opening Our Hearts To Thanksgiving** is read responsively by the pastor and the congregation, interspersed with Antiphons read by the pastor and two readers and by hymn verses sung by the congregation to the tune Dix 77 77 77:

P For the beauty of the earth,

C We thank and praise you, God, our Creator.

P For the beauty of your grace,

C We thank and praise you, Christ, our Savior.

P For the beauty of your ever-present love,

C We thank and praise you, Spirit of love. Amen.

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

When we thank God for the beauty of the earth, we begin by thanking God for all that underlies that added-extra beauty. We thank him for the NECESSARY things. Martin Luther once summed them up in a brief list that seems quite comprehensive: food and shelter, home and family, daily work and all I need from day to day. That sums it up, doesn't it? Those are the things we need to exist.

But then God goes beyond those things. Did you listen to the words from Genesis ... from the creation accounts? As God was creating, he wasn't simply throwing together an adequate earth. No. Indeed, as he went through the days of creation he called his results GOOD. How many times? Did you count? He might have called them "adequate" or "enough" or "hmm ... okay." But he proclaimed them GOOD—special, over-the-top, more than enough, beautiful.

Have you experienced such things in God's beautiful earth? Would you care to share those experiences this morning? Right now, I invite you to share stories of beautiful places where the beauty of the earth has somehow made you aware of the presence of your Creator. *(Take time for sharing. Work as moderator to move things along.)* BEAUTIFUL!

God's added-extra providence goes far beyond the beauty of the earth itself. We've already shared an antiphon called "Marvelous Me." Normally we good Christian-types avoid such "arrogance." But we ought not! It is not arrogant to praise your God for your YOU: your body, your experiences, your abilities, your talents, your strengths, your weaknesses, even your accomplishments, your tastes. Oh, the great variety that is YOU! It's more than okay to proclaim, "You know what? I AMAZE ME!" ... always adding "Thank God!" to your bold proclamation.

Can you share such insights with us? Some "Amazing Me" experiences? Right now, I invite you to share stories of things you can or have done that we may not be aware of. An athletic accomplishment from your youth? A medal, award or honor you've received? An impossible goal you've met? *(Take time for sharing, again moderating the conversation.)* BEAUTIFUL!

In worship this day we have also already broached the topic of "Incredible Love." What an important gift from our God: family, friends, coworkers—the joy of working together to accomplish a task when everything clicks—schoolmates, pen pals, Internet acquaintances. Loving and being loved is an essential part of being human ... of being YOU. And it is ordained and blessed by God. "It is not GOOD that this one be ALONE," God proclaimed in the Garden of Eden. We are meant to be in relationship with others ... MADE to be that way. As God "brought the woman" to the man in the primeval paradise, so it is GOD who BRINGS these others into your life.

Who has God brought to you? Do you have a story of a person who was clearly brought to you by your God, at a time and in a place that the gift of "Incredible Love" was obvious and led to thanks and praise? *(Take time for sharing, moderating the conversation.)* BEAUTIFUL!

Now, what Thanksgiving service would be complete without focusing on God's "Amazing Grace"? It is a gift of God—THE gift of God—made most obvious in the person and work of Jesus Christ. His coming to earth in Bethlehem was pure grace. His teaching and healing were pure grace. His sacrifice on the cross was pure grace. His rising from the tomb and opening eternity to all of us were pure grace. In Jesus Christ God's grace finds its FACE. But God's amazing grace is evident throughout his Word: The entire history of salvation is a string of amazing and gracious acts of our graceful Lord. The call of Abraham and the anointing of David—grace. The Exodus from Egypt and the return from Babylon—grace. The crowning of kings, the appointing of prophets, Noah's buoyant boat and Jonah's fleet fish—all are touchstones along the path that leads to manger, cross and open tomb. It is amazing grace. It is beautiful in the truest sense of the word. It is beautiful ... even the crude manger and the cruel cross become things of beauty when Christ touches them ... as do YOU in our loving Father's eyes, when Christ touches YOU!

We don't really need to share stories of God's amazing grace, because this is the place where those stories are ALWAYS told, whenever we gather at the cross, the font and the table ... even when we gather to hear wedding vows ... or when we gather at the grave. For we know that this story, the story of God's amazing grace, is a never-ending story. BEAUTIFUL!

Look for beauty this day. In the earth ... in yourself ... in loving relationships ... in the grace made evident in Christ Jesus.

And then live a life reflecting that beauty. We talk about being gracious. Think, in these next days, about being grace-FULL—full to overflowing with the grace God has gifted to you. Grace-FULL people are a beautiful people, indeed. Live grace-FULLY. In the name of Jesus Christ, our grace-full Savior. Amen.

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Prayers

- The Prayers: From Psalm 104 are spoken responsively by the pastor and two readers:

P Bless the Lord, O my soul.

I O Lord my God, you are very great.

II You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.

I You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,

II you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

I you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

II You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

I You cover it with the deep as with a garment,

II the waters stood above the mountains.

I At your rebuke they flee, at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

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Music Guide

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St. Anne CM (Psalm 8).....	42-43
Kremser 12 11 12 11	44-45
St. Anne CM (Lord's Prayer)	46-47
Patmos 77 77	48-49

Tune..... Dix 77 77 77



- The Opening Our Hearts To Thanksgiving is read responsively by the pastor and the congregation, interspersed with Antiphons read by the pastor and two readers and by hymn verses sung by the congregation to the tune Dix 77 77 77:

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C We thank and praise you, God, our Creator.

P For the beauty of your grace,

C We thank and praise you, Christ, our Savior.

P For the beauty of your ever-present love,

C We thank and praise you, Spirit of love. Amen.

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

- The **Beautiful Earth: An Antiphon** is read responsively by the pastor and two readers.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

- The **Marvelous Me: An Antiphon** is read responsively by the pastor and two readers.

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