

THANKSGIVING

ALL OUR WANTS
and NEEDS
SUPPLYING



WORSHIP KIT

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ALL OUR WANTS *and* NEEDS SUPPLYING



Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- The **Honor the Lord** opening section's hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune St. George's, Windsor 77 77 D, followed by words spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

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 wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

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.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

P Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase.

C **God opens his hand, and satisfies the desire of every living thing.**

P So will your barns be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow.

C **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.**

P Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase.

C God opens the windows of heaven, and floods us with blessing after blessing.

P So will your barns be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow.

C What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

P Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase.

C You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; my cup runs over.

P So will your barns be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow.

C The Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting, and his faithfulness endures forever.

P Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase.

C So will your barns be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow.

P “Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

C For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

• The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P Thank you for this day set aside to give thanks to you for all that you supply to us. We are grateful for giving us the basic necessities of food and drink, house and home, clothing and shoes and all that sustains us in this life. Yet, you do not stop there. You enrich our lives with things we want as well, things that bring us joy and gladness, things that bring us comfort and peace. Let us this day not take for granted your abundant generosity to us for the gifts of all our wants and needs supplied by you. Amen.

• The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. George’s, Windsor 77 77
D:

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home.
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, in your garner to abide.
Come, with all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: a shirt, a banana, a toy of some kind

☐ Hello, boys and girls and happy Thanksgiving. Today we are going to talk about those things that we need that we are thankful to God for and those things that we want that we are also grateful for. What do I have here in my hand? *(Hold up the shirt and allow children to respond.)* That’s right! It’s a shirt. Are clothes something that we need? *(Allow the children to respond.)* Yes, they keep us warm and protected. God has blessed us with the clothes we need, hasn’t he? We have drawers and closets with clothes. Clothes are definitely something to be thankful for. Now what is this? *(Hold up the banana and allow the children to respond.)* That’s right. It is a banana. Is food something that we need? *(Allow the children to respond.)* Yes, food keeps us healthy and strong and energized to go about our day. God has truly blessed us with the food we need as well, hasn’t he? We have cupboards and pantries filled with food from his hand. And we will be eating a lot of good food for Thanksgiving, won’t we? Food is something we are very grateful to God for. Now how about this? What is this? *(Hold up toy and allow the children to respond.)* That’s right! It is a toy. We have lots of toys to play with, don’t we? And we are grateful to God for them. But are toys really something we need to live or are they something we want—something extra in life to make things fun? Toys remind us that God is generous to us even beyond what we need. He cares for us even more than we deserve. He sent Jesus to us even beyond what we deserve because of our sins. And Jesus died on the cross so that we might have the forgiveness we need and eternal life in heaven with him, where we will live in joy with him forever. Let us pray:

Thank you, God, for being generous to us beyond what we need and for sending us Jesus to forgive us even more than we deserve. Let us be ever grateful to you for everything you give to us. Amen.

- **The First Lesson**, Deuteronomy 28:1-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The Lord will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. The Lord will establish you as

a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands.”

- **The Psalmody** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien* 76 76 D:

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring.
The hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with his fullness, all things with large increase;
He crowns the year with goodness, with plenty and with peace.

Bring to his sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save.
Your heart lay down before him when at his feet you fall,
And with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

- **The Second Lesson**, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Kremser 12 11 12 11:

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..

- **The Gospel Lesson**, Matthew 6:25-33, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look 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? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Kremser 12 11 12 11:

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!

- **The Homily**, based on Proverbs 3:9-10, is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

“Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase.”
 Proverbs 3:9-10

P (*At the start of the sermon, ushers or other parishioners distribute the “plate handout” to all in attendance, see p. 31.*) “All Our Wants and Needs Supplying” is the title of our service. We are dealing here with WANTS and NEEDS, and part of our task today may be to discover the difference between the two. Actually, the text from the book of Proverbs that formed the outlines of our opening liturgy today dealt with the same concern, the same distinction.

- “Honor the Lord with your SUBSTANCE,” it began—and while various translators have

rendered that Hebrew word in various ways, its basic meaning seems to be ... well, basic. SUBSTANCE is what you absolutely NEED to exist.

- “Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your INCREASE.” That word means everything else, everything you have that you *don't* absolutely NEED in order to exist. They may be things that are nice to have, maybe even things you think you couldn't live without ... but you could, if you have to. In other words (in the words of our service title), these are not really NEEDS, but WANTS. Follow?

It might be a very revealing exercise to try to sort out the difference in your life—if that's really possible. Try to think about it for a minute. What is the *absolute least* you NEED in order to exist? Not to exist in the manner to which you are accustomed (or even in the manner to which you would *like* to be accustomed), but simply to *exist*? One way to contemplate that—a rather horrendous way, but one that makes the point—would be to ask you to picture yourself a prisoner in a concentration camp. What is the very least you would need to exist? In concentration camps, we know, sometimes it really came to that. How much food? How much clothing? How much shelter? How much companionship? How much kindness? How much recreation?

Another way to picture it is with plate handout you received at the start of this homily. The purpose of this plate, you see, is to try to help you calculate the difference between NEEDS and WANTS, between SUBSTANCE and INCREASE. The gimmick is simply this. Take that little plate home with you (or wherever you go for Thanksgiving dinner) and put it next to your dinner plate. You might even put it *on* your dinner plate before the meal begins. It is probably safe to say that everything you absolutely NEED to eat in order to exist one day could fit on a plate that size. That represents what the text from Proverbs calls “your SUBSTANCE.” Everything else, then, everything that you are able to pile on your much larger Thanksgiving dinner plate, and eat ... and eat and eat and eat—is INCREASE, stuff that you don't absolutely NEED, but the Lord has given you anyway, in addition, as a bonus.

And that's just the point, you see. The tiny plate is not intended to make you feel guilty, but to make you feel grateful.

Our Jewish neighbors have an exercise something like that which forms a part of the Passover ritual they do in their homes every spring (right around the time we are celebrating Easter.) It's a little responsory (sometimes sung as a kind of happy hymn) called DAYENU [pronounced die-AY-noo]. That's a Hebrew term that means, “It would be enough for us.” That phrase is used as a response as the leader takes the household through a remembrance of history, something like this: “If the Lord had protected our houses from the angel of death, but had not delivered us from bondage in Egypt, DAYENU—it would have been enough for us. If the Lord had delivered us from bondage in Egypt, but not opened the Red Sea, DAYENU—it would have been enough for us. If the Lord had opened the Red Sea, but had not drowned our

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'St. George's, Windsor 77 77 D'. The score is written for piano and is organized into three systems, each consisting of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system begins with a measure number '1' in both staves. The second system begins with a measure number '6'. The third system begins with a measure number '11'. The music features a mix of chords and melodic lines, with some notes beamed together. The overall style is that of a simple piano accompaniment for a hymn.

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