

Thanksgiving Prayer Service 2025

Rev Karen Burger
Fr Anthony Oswagwu
Fr Mike Rieder

Mother Diane Neuls DeBlasio
Dcn Bill Dobbins
Dcn Matt Yellico

Order of Worship:

Prelude: *Grateful*

All Stand for Opening song: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Ministers process in from main entrance during this song

Call to worship

Mike: Give thanks to the Lord for He is Good

Response: His mercy endures forever

Mike: Let the people of Israel say

Response: His mercy endures forever

Mike: Let all who stand in awe of the Lord say

Response: His mercy endures forever

Mike offers a quick welcome to all and explains how we will be praying in three languages – lesson in ASL, then when we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we will also sing it in Spanish – look up at the screens.

Karen: No matter what words we use, whether it is the traditional words of a hymn like “For the Beauty of the Earth”, or the words of the more contemporary tune we heard before we were called to sing, Gratitude must flow from our hearts on a daily basis.

Meister Eckhart tells us *“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough”*

Tonight we come together as one community with hearts overflowing in Thanksgiving, Praise, and Awe at the wonder of the love of God for each one of us. We are here because all that we are, all that we see, all that we’ve been and all we’ll ever be is a blessing. It is truly amazing, and we are grateful for it all.

So now we pray together in thanks to God our creator, who we call Father. We pray together in thanks to our saving God, Jesus whose life, death and resurrection give us the promise of eternal life. And we pray together in thanks to God whose Spirit sustains us and guides us every day.

Bill: Let us pray (pause briefly)

Loving and eternal God, we marvel at the wonders of all your works. You once saved a single nation from slavery, and you walked with them on their journey to the promised land. You sent your Son Jesus to reveal to us the presence of your kingdom on earth and to guide us to your kingdom in heaven.

In these challenging times we ask you to give us hearts filled with thanks for the wonder of your love for us. Your loving presence in our lives helps us to show our thanks by working to become channels of peace in our world.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

From Psalm 92

Diane: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High

People repeat: **It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High**

Diane: I proclaim your love at daybreak,
your faithfulness in the night,
For you make me jubilant, LORD, by your deeds,
at the works of your hands I shout for joy.

People repeat: **It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High**

Diane: How great are your works oh LORD!
How profound your designs!
A senseless person cannot know this;
a fool cannot comprehend.

People repeat: **It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High**

Diane: The just shall flourish like the palm tree,
shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.
Planted in the house of the LORD,
they shall flourish in the courts of our God.

People repeat: **It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High**

Diane: They shall bear fruit even in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
To proclaim: "The LORD is just.
My rock, in whom there is no wrong."

People repeat: **It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High**

Diane: Now let us all open our hearts to hear scripture stories that remind us of the wonder of God's eternal love.

Choir: Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart's song. Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart's song. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you.

Karen: In the book of Genesis we read about God's commandment to Noah – to build an ark and to bring the animals in pairs into the ark.

Noah did just as God had commanded him.

Then the LORD said to Noah: Go into the ark, you and all your household, for you alone in this generation have I found to be righteous before me. Noah and his family entered the ark, together with every kind of wild animal, every kind of tame animal, and every kind of bird. For forty days and forty nights heavy rain poured down on the earth. As the waters increased, they lifted the ark, so that it rose above the earth.

The LORD wiped out every being on earth: human beings and animals, and the birds of the air. Only Noah and those with him in the ark were left.

And when the waters had swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days,

God remembered Noah and all that were with him in the ark. So God made a wind sweep over the earth, and the waters began to subside.

Gradually the waters receded from the earth. The waters had so diminished that the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

Then Noah released a dove, to see if the waters had lessened on the earth. But the dove could find no place to perch, and it returned to him in the ark. Putting out his hand, he caught the dove and drew it back to him inside the ark.

He waited yet seven days more and released the dove from the ark again.

In the evening the dove came back to him, and there in its bill was a plucked-off olive leaf! So Noah knew that the waters had diminished on the earth.

He waited yet another seven days and then released the dove; but this time it did not come back.

Then Noah and his family left the ark and built an altar to the LORD, and he offered burnt offerings on the altar.

When the LORD smelled the sweet odor, the LORD said to himself: Never again will I curse the ground because of human beings, since the desires of the human heart are evil from youth; nor will I ever again strike down every living being, as I have done.

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them: Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:

See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that never again shall all creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.

This is the sign of the covenant that I am making between me and you and every living creature with you for all ages to come:

I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

When the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature—every mortal being that is on earth.

God told Noah: This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and every mortal being that is on earth.

Choir: Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart's song. Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart's song. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you.

Matt: In the book of Exodus we are told of how God heard the cry of the Israelites and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock beyond the wilderness, he came to the mountain of God, Horeb.

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him as fire flaming out of a bush. When he looked, although the bush was on fire, it was not being consumed.

So Moses decided, "I must turn aside to look at this remarkable sight. Why does the bush not burn up?"

The LORD called out to him from the bush: Moses! Moses! He answered, "Here I am."

God said: I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

Then the LORD said: I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry against their taskmasters. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them up from that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Now, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

God answered: I will be with you; and this will be your sign that I have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God at this mountain.

Choir: Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart's song. Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart's song. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you.

Anthony: In the first book of Samuel we hear how God remembered Hannah and gave her a son – Samuel who would anoint the future king David.

Hannah rose after a meal at Shiloh and presented herself before the LORD; at the time Eli the priest was sitting on a chair near the doorpost of the LORD's temple.

In her bitterness she prayed to the LORD, weeping freely, and made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if you look with pity on the hardship of your servant, if you remember me and do not forget me, if you give your handmaid a male child, I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life. No razor shall ever touch his head."

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli watched her mouth, for Hannah was praying silently; though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli, thinking she was drunk, said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Sober up from your wine!"

"No, my lord!" Hannah answered. "I am an unhappy woman. I have had neither wine nor liquor; I was only pouring out my heart to the LORD. Do not think your servant a worthless woman; my prayer has been prompted by my deep sorrow and misery."

Eli said, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have requested."

She replied, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes,” and left. She went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and no longer appeared downhearted.

Early the next morning they worshiped before the LORD and then returned to their home in Ramah. When they returned Elkanah had intercourse with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. She conceived and, at the end of her pregnancy, bore a son whom she named Samuel. “Because I asked the LORD for him.”

Choir: Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart’s song. Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart’s song. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you.

Diane: The words of the prophet Isaiah call us to rejoice because the Lord’s love for each one of us is stronger than that of a mother for her child.

Sing out, heavens, and rejoice, earth, break forth into song, you mountains,

For the LORD comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.”

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?

Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you.

Choir: Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart’s song. Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart’s song. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you. I will never forget you; I will never forsake you.

Alleluia (all stand)

John 20:19-31

Bill

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to John

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord

Juan 20, 19-31

Lectura del Santo evangelio según san Juan

Al anochecer del día de la resurrección, estando cerradas las puertas de la casa donde se hallaban los discípulos, por miedo a los judíos, se presentó Jesús en medio de ellos y les dijo: "La paz esté con ustedes". Dicho esto, les mostró las manos y el costado. Cuando los discípulos vieron al Señor, se llenaron de alegría.

De nuevo les dijo Jesús: "La paz esté con ustedes. Como el Padre me ha enviado, así también los envío yo". Después de decir esto, sopló sobre ellos y les dijo: "Reciban el Espíritu Santo. A los que les perdonen los pecados, les quedarán perdonados; y a los que no se los perdonen, les quedarán sin perdonar".

Palabra del Señor

Homily (Mike)

*After a moment of quiet, young people sing **Let there be Peace on Earth** Music in back of the binder*

Cantor invites all to stand

Profession of Faith led by the choir.

Response: *Amen! Amen! Amen! Amen, we do believe!*

Please be seated

Reflection song: *The House that Love is Building* Music in back of the binder

Sharing of Peace

Mike: Our Risen Savior's first words to his disciples in the upper room were, "Peace be with you." The disciples rejoiced in thanksgiving because His peace fed their hearts. Let's take a moment to feed one another's hearts tonight as we share the gift of Christ's Peace.

After sharing peace, Mike continues

Now, having shared the peace of Jesus with one another, we are called to another action of thanksgiving. We want to bring love and hope to our friends in need in our community. We will now have an offering that will be shared among our communities to continue our works of mercy in Ronkonkoma. Thank you for your generosity.

Offering Song: ***Hold On to Love (Jesse Manibusan)** music in back of binder*

During this song, there is a collection that will benefit the service to those in need in all our communities

Intercessions:

Anthony: Our Lord tells us "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. We now come before God asking for all that we need.

Cantor invokes the response and people repeat:

Give us your peace, Oh God. Danos la Paz, Tu Paz.

Karen:

1. We ask God's blessing on all who share in the gift of Baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus, that our lives of love and service will boldly proclaim the presence of God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.
2. We pray that all world leaders will be open to learning from one another how to work peacefully together toward a world of peace. We pray to the Lord.
3. We live in a world overflowing with an abundance of God's gifts and yet there are so many who are lacking in things we take for granted – adequate food, drinkable water, education and employment opportunities and healthcare. We pray that the ears of our hearts will always be open to hearing and responding to the cry of the poor. We pray to the Lord.
4. We pray for the safety of all travelers, and we pray for our families and friends as we gather to celebrate and thank God. That these celebrations will not only fill our stomachs, but also fill our hearts with mutual love. We pray to the Lord.

Bill:

5. We pray in thanksgiving for God's mercy that is available to us in the form of a new day every day, and we ask that our lives become reflections of that wonderful mercy. We pray to the Lord.
6. As a child Jesus was forced to flee to Egypt for his safety and the safety of his family. We pray for all migrants in our world - that they will be safe and find welcome in their new homes. We pray to the Lord.
7. Jesus tells us the harvest is plenty, but laborers are few. We pray for an increase in vocations to full time ministry in the vineyard of Christ. We pray to the Lord.
8. We pray in thanksgiving for the beauty of this earth and we ask that we may grow in our respect and care for all life and all creation. We pray to the Lord.

Matt:

9. We pray for all who suffer from any form of illness or infirmity, and we pray in thanksgiving for all who dedicate their lives to bringing the healing touch of Christ to others. We pray to the Lord.
10. We pray that all who have died will see God face to face, and that all who will face their first holiday season without a loved one will find hope in the promise of the resurrection. We pray to the Lord.
11. We pray in thanksgiving for those who work to keep our community, our nation and our world safe, and we pray that we can see Jesus in the face of those we have been called to serve. We pray to the Lord. We pray for the protection of all
12. In the depths of our hearts we pray for our own personal intentions (pause) and we also pray for all the intentions of all those gathered around us (pause) and we pray for all who have no one to pray for them. We pray to the Lord.

Mike: God of Mercy and Love, help us to open our hearts to the healing presence of your Holy Spirit. Guide us, your disciples, to fulfill your dreams for us and all of creation. We ask this in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

We now bring all our prayers to God in the words our savior taught us: Our Father...

Then sung in Spanish

**Padre nuestro, que estas en el cielo,
Santificado sea tu nombre;
Venga a nosotros, venga tu Reino;
Hágase tu voluntad así en la tierra como en el cielo.
El pan danos hoy, nuestro pan de cada día;
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
Así como nosotros perdonamos a quien nos ofende;
Y no nos dejes caer en tentación,
Y libranos del mal.**

Blessing over the people

Mike: Loving God, we offer you thanks for the many blessings you have given us. We ask you to help us to go beyond words of thanks and to live lifestyles of thanksgiving and service.

Diane

- You bless us daily with food and drink; inspire us to share what we have with those in need.
- You bless us with health; give us courage to visit the sick and infirm.
- You bless us with friends; remind us to reach out to those who are alone.
- You have blessed our country with religious freedom, remind us to honor those who practice their beliefs in ways that are different than ours.
- You bless us with homes; remind us that your Son who was born in a stable is present and calling out to is in the many homeless who live in our streets.
- You bless us with mentors and guides for our journey; help us to be examples of love and faith to those we meet each day.
- You bless us with a beautiful world, remind us of our responsibility to care for your creation.
- You have blessed our country in so many ways; help us to continue the work of keeping our country a place of justice for all.

Mike: All that is good comes from you, Lord of all creation. Help us to always reflect your goodness in our daily lives. We make this prayer in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

And let us all say together: Amen

Meditation song: *Canción de Misionero (Alma Misionera) Music in back of the binder*

Llévame donde los pueblos necesiten tus palabras, necesiten ganas de vivir; donde falte la esperanza, donde falte la alegría simplemente por no saber de ti.

Take me where the peoples need your words, they need the desire to live; where hope is lacking, where joy is lacking simply because they don't know about you.

Matt: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. We ask you to respond AMEN to each prayer (all ministers raise hands over the people as we pray)

Diane: The Lord has created each one of you in his image and likeness. May your lives always reflect the glory of God. Amen

Anthony: May the Lord who has won the victory over sin and death bless you and help you share in that victory in every moment of your lives. Amen

Karen: May you know the unconditional love of God every day of your life. Amen

Bill: May you respond to God's unconditional love by passing it on to all you meet. Amen

Diane: May almighty God bless us all + who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

Mike: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

We invite you all to continue our celebration downstairs with food and fellowship.

We are gathering in our gym for hospitality. It is across the lot.

Now thank we all our God

Ministers process out during this song