

**Addresses
for
Morning and Evening Prayer**

**according to the
1943 Lectionary
of the
USA 1928 Book of Common Prayer**

**Intended for use
by Layreaders
in the absence of a priest**

**by Ed Pacht
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Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving. there are two sets of propers for the morning and two for the evening. A homily is provided for Morning Prayer A. Others to be written.

Morning Prayer A

NOTE the canticle in place of the Venite, page 264

First Lesson: Deut 8:1-11, 17-20

Here beginneth the eighth chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy.

1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily to be written

Second Lesson: 1 Tim 6:6-16

Here beginneth the sixth verse of the sixth chapter of the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

7 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;

8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;

9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

20 As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: 1 Thes 5:12-23

*Here beginneth the twelfth verse
of the fifth chapter of
the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.*

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

17 And then the LORD's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

18 Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

19 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

20 And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Evening Prayer B

First Lesson: Deut 11:8-21

Here beginneth the eighth verse of the eleventh chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy.

8 Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;

9 And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

10 For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:

11 But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

12 A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

Homily

This is a day of Thanksgiving.
of feasting, of rejoicing,
of enjoying families and being glad.

*"In every thing give thanks: " says St. Paul,
"for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
concerning you."*

God has provided.
He has delivered us.
He will provide,
and He will deliver us,
but we haven't always felt thankful, have we?
There have been times
when we've only wanted to complain,
when things just didn't look good at all.
Well, is everything always wonderfully good?
Or do bad things happen,
sometimes to good people?
Sometimes they happen to us,
sometimes to others.
When it's others ti happens to,
should we always be all happy
about the good we have?
Or should we maybe be thinking about them?

*"... thou shalt remember all the way
which the LORD thy God led thee ..."
said Moses.*

How thankful do we feel
when we look at the hard times?
How grateful are we when we are corrected?

When we are made to go ways we do not desire
for our own good?
Do we choose to remember only the things we like?

*"... thou shalt remember all the way ...
all the way ...
which the LORD thy God led thee ..."
... to humble thee,
and to prove thee,
to know what was in thine heart,
whether thou wouldst
keep his commandments, or no.
And he humbled thee,
and suffered thee to hunger,
and fed thee with manna,
which thou knewest not,
neither did thy fathers know;
that he might make thee know
that man doth not live by bread only,
but by every word that proceedeth
out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*

On that first Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth
the pilgrims had just come out of a dreadful time,
They had nearly staved, barely survived,
but they had come through.
They had learned much.
They were not quite the same as before it all,
and now, when times were better,
they gave thanks,
not just that, finally they had what they needed,
but, more important,
that God had been with them in the hard times,
that He had given them strength to survive,

Yes, always!
He tells us not to worry about anything

Be careful for nothing;

but always to pray,
to let our requests be made known unto God.,
to trust Him,
to thank Him even before we see an answer,
and when we do so

*the peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
shall keep our hearts and minds
through Christ Jesus.*

Let us pray.

O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with
beauty; Open, we beseech thee, our eyes to behold
thy gracious hand in all thy works; that rejoicing in
thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee
with gladness.

O most loving Father, who willest us to give
thanks for all things, to dread nothing but loss of
thee, and to cast our care upon thee, who carest for
us, Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly
anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal
life may hide from us the light of that love which
is immortal, and which thou has manifested unto
us in the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Those who chose the lessons we just heard
chose wisely indeed.

Isaiah, chapter 12
is a beautiful short hymn of thanksgiving,
with a very simple and profound focus:

“God, You were angry with me,
and I deserved it,
but You are angry no more,
instead You’re comforting me.”

By His mercy we can draw
water out of the wells of salvation.

We can cry out:
Praise the LORD,
we can
call upon his name,
declare his doings among the people,
and
make mention that his name is exalted.

Though His material blessings are important,
there is no mention here of any of them.
Instead we

Sing unto the LORD;
for he hath done excellent things: ...

We cry out and shout,
not so much because of these things,
but because He is in the midst of us.

St. Paul tells us to rejoice always --
always --
does that mean even when
we are short of what we think we need?

that, by His grace, they had lived
to see the good times.

*"In every thing give thanks:
"or this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
concerning you."*

Let us pray.

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the
depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down
the dew; We yield thee unfeigned thanks and
praise for the return of seedtime and harvest, for
the increase of the ground and the gathering in of
the fruits thereof, and for all the other blessings of
thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation
and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just
sense of these great mercies; such as may appear in
our lives by an humble, holy, and obedient walking
before thee all our days; And make us mindful,
merciful Lord, of thy loving presence even in the
hard times, and of the word thou wouldst speak to
us therein; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom
with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all glory and
honour, world without end. Amen.

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see also the sermon by Canon Hollister
under this date
in the Sermons by Other Authors

Morning Prayer B

NOTE the canticle in place of the Venite, page 264

First Lesson: Deut 26:1-11

*Here beginneth the twenty-sixth chapter
of the Book of Deuteronomy.*

1 And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein;

2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.

3 And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which the LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us.

4 And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD thy God.

5 And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous:

6 And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage:

7 And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression:

And the remembrance of His material blessings may have been at the top of their minds, but was not the only focus of their thoughts, nor should it be ours.

There is more,
and it is far greater.

This day we gather with families to feast.
Our tables groan under the weight
of all the beautiful food we put on them.
We eat until we are satisfied,
and perhaps a bit more than that,
and it is only right that we should feast,
only proper that we should celebrate --
our God desires that we rejoice in His mercy.

Some of us have gathered together
to tell God and one another
that we know the source of all our blessings,
that we are thankful to Him.

But what are we thanking Him for?
What is all this celebration really about?
What, in short, is most important to us?
Full bellies?

A good paycheck?
A pleasant time with family?
The society in which we live?

All these things are worthy causes for thanksgiving,
No one can doubt that.
To say otherwise
would be ungrateful in the extreme.
But is any of that the main reason we are here?
Or is there something more?

Homily

We all know the story.
 It was almost 400 years ago.
 That little band of religiously motivated settlers,
 the ones we call the Pilgrims,
 had survived -- barely -- a very hard winter.
 With the help of Indian friends,
 they had learned how to plant and to hunt
 in this new land.
 It was now harvest time.
 They had survived.
 They had prospered.
 They had ample provisions for the coming winter.
 Things looked good, at long last,
 and it was time to celebrate.

Yes, they did indeed have a great feast.
 They did eat and drink to their complete satisfaction
 Yes, they did express their gratefulness
 to the native friends who had helped them through
 (even though they did so soon forget that friendship)
 and entertained them at that banquet,
 but that is not what is meant by Thanksgiving,
 and that was not the main event of that day.
 They gathered that day in their church,
 to give thanks to Almighty God,
 to hear a sermon about His great goodness,
 to pledge themselves to live thankfully
 before Him every day of their lives.

The happy enjoyment of His gifts
 was certainly a part of that celebration,
 but only part.

8 And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt
 with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm,
 and with great terribleness, and with signs, and
 with wonders:

9 And he hath brought us into this place, and hath
 given us this land, even a land that floweth with
 milk and honey.

10 And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits
 of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me.
 And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God,
 and worship before the LORD thy God:

11 And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing
 which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee,
 and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the
 stranger that is among you.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: John 6:26-35

*Here beginneth the twenty-sixth verse of the
 sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John.*

26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I
 say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the
 miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and
 were filled.

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but
 for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life,
 which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him
 hath God the Father sealed.

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that
 we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the
 work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath
 sent.

30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily to be written

Evening Prayer A

First Lesson: Is 12

Here beginneth the twelfth chapter of the Prophet Isaiah.

1 And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: Phil 4:4-7

Here beginneth the fourth verse of the fourth chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.
