

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, October 9th, 2022
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Thanksgiving
Proper 23
Luke 17:11-19

Welcome

Announcements

- Study Club for Students!!!! M&W 3-5. Need Volunteers
- Halloween

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

We will worship the LORD with gladness and come into God's presence with song.

Know that it is the LORD God who made us, and we are God's people.

We will enter God's gates with praise and thanksgiving.

Let us give thanks to God this day and bless God's holy name.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Gracious and Loving God,

we gather in this season of thanksgiving,

struck by the colours of the leaves,

the last warm breezes, birds flying south in formation.

Such beauty speaks to us of your goodness,

and your desire to provide what each of your creatures needs.

As we gather,

renew our sense of gratitude for every good gift you offer us.

Especially we praise you for the gift of Christ Jesus

who teaches us how to walk in the world you love

and offers us grace and compassion to share with those we meet.

Receive our love and gratitude in his name,

and by your Spirit, empower us to live gratefully

each and every day.

Opening Hymn # 434: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beauty of the earth,

for the beauty of the skies,

for the love which from our birth

over and around us lies,
 Lord of all, to thee we raise
 this our sacrifice of praise.

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

For each perfect gift of thine,
 to the earth so freely given,
 graces human and divine,
 flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
 Lord of all, to thee we raise
 this our sacrifice of praise.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Living and loving God,
 We acknowledge we enjoy life
 with an abundance many nations cannot imagine.
 Yet we confess, we do not always recognize the blessings we share.
 We worry about our futures,
 and ignore the present needs of those around us.
 Forgive us our fears and narrow vision
 and our failure to care for creation as you intended.**

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting.
 Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
 In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven and set free to begin again.
 At this time of Thanksgiving, let us give special thanks for God's most generous love.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.**

Music Ministry: “A Thanksgiving Trilogy” by Choir

Responsive Reading

Question 81. Who may be baptized?

Those who believe, repent of their sins and commit themselves to Christ, may be baptized. Children of believing parents are also members of the covenant of grace and share in the hope of the gospel. They are to be received into the Christian community by baptism, nurtured in the faith, and confirmed by their own profession of faith when they grow older. It is the duty of parents and those who present children for baptism to confess the faith in which they are to be baptized and to promise to bring them up in that faith.

Acts 2:39, Acts 16:33

Question 82. In which name are we baptized?

Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Baptism is by use of water and in the name of the Holy Trinity.

Acts 8:16-17, Acts 19:5

Question 83. What is the Lord’s Supper?

The Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, or the Eucharist is eating bread and drinking wine in remembrance of Christ’s body broken and his blood shed for us, in anticipation of his joyous return. The cup is a sharing in Christ’s blood and the bread a sharing in his body. The real presence of Christ does not come through some change in the bread and wine or through Christ being in or under the elements, but rather we are lifted up into the presence of Christ by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 10:16, Lk 24:35

Children’s Hymn #441: “Can a Little Child Like Me”

Can A Little Child Like Me
 Thank The Father Fittingly?
 Yes, Oh Yes! Be Good And True,
 Patient, Kind, In All You Do;
 Love The Lord, And Do Our Part;
 Learn To Say With All Your Heart,

Saviour, We Thank You,
 Spirit, We Thank You,
 Great God our Maker, We Thank You,

For Our Playing, For Our Rest,
 For The Earth in Beauty Dressed,
 For the Moon and Sun so Bright,

For The Day and For The Night,
 For Your Patient Loving Care,
 For Your Bounty Every Where. (Refrain)

For The Laughter For The Tear,
 For The love That Meets us Here,
 For The Lessons of Our Youth
 Honour, Gratitude And Truth,
 For The Great Gift of Your Son,
 For Your Work in Us Begun. (Refrain)

Children's Lesson

Prayer for illumination **(Congregant Prepared)**

Scripture

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Sermon

I want to start today by reading off one more bit of scripture, one that reminds us of the way we are called to live our lives as Christians and is directly related to the story that we are looking at in the book of Luke today.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

God calls for us to live our lives giving thanks in all circumstances. This is a challenge for most people, we find it easy to show thanks when our lives are going well. However, when we have challenges, difficulties, trials, tribulation, grief, pain, and other situations that make our life less than desirable in our minds we often become overwhelmed by the circumstances of life and forget that we are called to live with thankfulness.

Thankfulness should be expressed to God every day, regardless of our life circumstances. Our expression of gratitude to God should not be dependent upon what is happening in our lives. It is God's will that we would turn to him in thanks every day, not for the things we have in our lives, or the situations and circumstances that we desire, but in thankfulness to Him regardless of our situation and circumstances.

A great example of this is Matthew Henry, a very well-known Bible commentator, who one day after he was mugged wrote of the experience in his journals. This is what he wrote, 'Let me be thankful first, because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.' In his response to being robbed he was able to give thanks for the circumstances of the mugging and not focus on the negativity of being mugged. He did not focus on the situation he had been in, but instead on the circumstances of that situation, which he knew could have been different. Matthew Henry had changed his perception of the event into something he could show thankfulness to God for, instead of something which could have been seen as purely negative. This is what followers of God are called to do, to change the way we look at the life situations and circumstances and find reasons to be thankful.

Someone once said, 'When I change the way I look at things, the things I look at change'. When we learn to find reasons to be thankful to God in all things, it begins to shape how we see the world. This is what God wants for all of his people. God wants for his people to stop being so focused on the things of this world, their situations and circumstances which are temporary and instead to be focused on thing of eternal importance. When we stop focusing on the good or bad of this life, we can begin to put our focus on God, and we can truly find thankfulness in all things. That is what the story of the ten lepers is about, putting our focus on God and giving him thanks for the things in our life.

Leprosy was and still is an absolutely horrible disease. The disease starts simple, discoloration and small specks on the skin, usually the eyelids and the palms. It gets worse and gradually spreads across the whole body, it bleaches the hair white, it causes a crust and scales to develop on the skin, there is swelling and open sores. Leprosy is a disease that starts simple and then slowly works its way into the body, essentially causing the flesh of the infected person to rot while they are still alive.

Leprosy was seen as a curse in Jesus's day, it ate away at every part of a person's body. If you had leprosy people believed you were cursed by God, that his wrath was being poured out upon you because of the sin you had in your life. It was because of the way the disease progressed through the body and the idea that it was the will of God that lepers were often cut off from society, everything, and everyone that they knew would abandon them when they contracted the disease. Lepers were often sent to live in their own communities, or even dropped on islands to die.

In the middle east the law said that lepers could not live within a walled town, they could only live in open villages. It also said that regardless of where they lived, they needed to rend their clothing into pieces, it had to be torn apart as a sign of their great remorse and repentance, a sign of their grieving, their heads needed to be clean shaven, and their beards covered. To any onlooker the leper would appear to be someone who was in deep mourning for a lost loved one, and in truth the leper was mourning the death of someone they loved, themselves. They were also required to keep distance from all people, yelling out, 'unclean, unclean' just in case anyone might try to approach them. A leper was not allowed to associate or even speak to anyone who was not infected with the disease.

Lepers were seen as being corrupt physically and spiritually by the whole of society. The physically disease being a representation of the spiritual infection. Starting of simply with the small patches, very much the way sin infects the lives of people. Starting small and eventually growing bigger and getting deeper into someone's life eventually spreading into most aspects of their life, before it starts to turn inward where it eventually reaches the heart, slowly corrupting the whole being. The same way that leprosy isolated the infected because of their physical ailment, sin spiritually isolates people, it separates them from others and from God, because of the corruption it creates in our lives. Until finally it reaches the heart where leprosy results in death and sin will separate them totally and finally from the salvation they could have had in Jesus Christ.

I hope that you now have a clearer understanding of the life that those ten men who called out to Jesus for healing were living. They were cut off from the world in every sense of the word, they were cut off from their friends, their families and from all forms of society, living lonely lives exiled away from everything they had known in the world. Locked into their own small community and not allowed to connect with anyone who did not share in their disease. That is why they stood away when they called out to Jesus, they called out to him in a loud voice because of the distance that they maintained according to the law. The law that had cut them off physically in the world because of their disease and was now keeping them physically away from God himself.

This is a very interesting picture that is painted in the story. Lepers who are cut off physically and spiritually from the literal Son of God who is in their very presence by the rules of the society. Jesus, the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, and they are unable to approach him because of the disease that has infected their whole being. What an incredible reflection of how sin separates us from Jesus Christ in our own lives. Sin does spiritually what leprosy did physically. Sin destroys people's relationship with God, it keeps them separated from God, standing far off and unable to approach, unable to even draw nearer to God. Often because they are fearful of getting close to God because they had rejoiced in their sin, or in many cases people who refuse to recognize that there are in fact sinful, people who are held away from God because of their adherence to the rules of society over their obedience to God. We were all like this at

some point, until the Holy Spirit began its work within each of us, convicting us in our hearts, revealing the truth of our sinful nature to each of us, unveiling the depths of our need to overcome our sins, opening our eyes to our helplessness to overcome our sinful nature, and making us realize our need for God.

When this happens, we too like these lepers, learn to call out to God. Like the leper we need to call out to him as not teacher, or friend, but as master. The lepers recognized that Jesus, the Son of God, was the only one who had the authority to heal the disease that was destroying their lives, to make them whole again, and return the life that they had lost to them. We need to recognize the same thing in Jesus, spiritually Jesus is the only one who we can call out to for our eternal salvation from our sins. Jesus alone is the way, the truth, and the life.

So why doesn't everyone turn to Christ for salvation? Like many of the sick who did not come to Jesus as he walked the earth, perhaps, they do not recognize that he is the one who can heal them, many people do not recognize that Jesus can help them overcome the sins that are causing damage in their lives. Then there are the many that refuse to recognize their own sin because their desire to live their life the way that want to rule over their whole perception of the world.

Yet, these ten lepers this day recognized that Jesus could in fact heal them, so they came to him, calling out for healing, hoping for a better life, longing to spend time with their family and friends again. Calling out to him knowing that He could change their lives forever. Jesus heard their call, and he does promise to heal them. He instructs them to go to the priests and show themselves to the priests so that they could be declared clean and return to society. They had to have some faith in his ability to heal, because all ten of the lepers walked to the priests and were healed as they walked. Each one of the ten lepers was declared cleansed, each one of them was allowed to rejoin society, to return to family and friends, to return to their homes and return to the lives they had to abandon because of the disease that had infected each of them.

The healing was indeed a miracle, but the most interesting aspect of this story is what happens after they are healed. All ten had been healed, all ten had experienced the miracle, all ten had been blessed by God because of the faith they had placed in Christ to heal them. However, only one of them returned to offer praise and thanks to Jesus Christ. All ten had every reason to offer thanks to Christ, and in their minds, they were probably thankful and appreciative, but only one showed their thankfulness by returning to Christ. The truth is Jesus blessed 10 lepers and changed their lives, but only one truly had their lives transformed by their interaction with Jesus. Only one expressed their thankfulness in gratitude.

Henry Frederick Amil, a Swiss author wrote, 'Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude, Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness.' When we are thankful, we may have it in our hearts and thoughts, but it never goes beyond that, gratefulness is when we express

what we have in our thoughts and hearts. In life we are often thankful, but until we express those thanks, until we do something to show our thoughts and hearts, we have not expressed gratitude. When we express our thanks, when we actually express our gratitude, it has a transformative effect upon us and our relationships with one another and with God.

We see example of this in people all around us. If we were to look at two people who have similar lives, who go through the same ups and downs, the same trials and tribulations, the same joys and pains and one of them approached everything with a sense of self, that they were earning and getting what they deserved when things went their way and being denied by the system and society when things did not go their way, the other would be focused on God and the blessing that they find in every situation they have in their life. At the end of the year, we would find two very different people, one who is filled with negativity, despondency, and bitterness, one who is challenged in their relationships both in this world and with God. The other who would probably find their lives filled with joy and contentment, living their life with gratitude and with positive relationships with both people themselves and with God. Which one would you rather be around? Which one would you rather be?

Truthfully, we often get caught up in the trials, tribulations, and troubles in our lives. It becomes very simple for us to lose perspective in our lives. If we stopped and looked around us each day with open eyes, we could be overwhelmed by the blessing which God gives us each and every day. However, the reality is that we often focus all of our time, energy and thoughts on the few things which are causing problems in our lives, the things which cause us stress, the things which do not go the way we want, rather than all of things for which we can be thankful for and grateful for in this life.

Benjamin Franklin said, 'being content makes poor men rich, being discontent makes rich men poor'. There is an amazing amount of truth in that statement. Think for a moment about all of the wealthy people in this world, all of the famous people in this world, the actors, athletes, influences, business moguls, and corporate executives, people who chase sins in their lives trying to find some sort of way to fill a hole that is in their lives which they can never fill. They live filled with discontent even though they have so much because they always desire more. They want more money, more power, more influence, more pleasure, more, more, more, because they fail to understand the importance of gratitude for the things they already have. They fail to see all that they have because they do not recognize the blessings that God has given them in time, talent, and treasure, they believe they have done it themselves and the fail to acknowledge that everything they have in fact has come from God.

This is what set the one leper apart from the other nine. He recognized that everything he had from that point on in this world was not because of anything other than the blessing he had received from God. All ten lepers had been blessed, all ten had been healed, but that one man had his life transformed, he knew God had blessed him and

that was why he came back, fell at the feet of Jesus, and expressed his gratitude through praise and thanks.

God pours his blessings out on this world. No one is lucky, no one has good Karma. We are all blessed by God, all people, believers, and non-believers are blessed by God. The same way the ten lepers were blessed by God.

Barnabas and Paul reminded all the people of this in the book of Acts.

Acts 14:15-17

Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

God blesses the whole of humanity, he is the one who provides the rain, the sun, the 4 seasons. He is the one who provides the harvest. He is the one who provides our very lives. There is no such thing as luck or karma or whatever else people like to call the blessings of God because of their own vanity. God provides us with everything, and we should recognize this and offer him our thanks and praise every day because He is the one and only true God.

That one leper who returned recognized this and for that he is told by Christ 'to rise and go, his faith has made him well.' It was his recognition of the blessing of God, his faith enacted in gratitude that not only physically healed him, but spiritually healed him as well. When he recognized his physical healing was a blessing from God, and he fell at the feet of Jesus in worship he was made a completely new creation, his physical and spiritual form remade in the image of Christ. He was reborn.

Every Christian in the world should recognize their blessings, every non-Christian should recognize their blessings, all of mankind should recognize the creator and sustainer of life on this planet and be living their lives with thanks and acts of gratitude to our Lord. Not just on this weekend, but every day. It is through our acts of gratitude, our living with thankfulness, that people will recognize Christians in this world. Christians should recognize and understand just how much they have been healed from, what they have actually been saved from, something that is far worse than the horrors of leprosy and even any other disease that plagues the world today. Christians should know and understand that we have been saved from sin, delivered from the debt of death we owe by the blood of Jesus Christ, the blood that washes us clean, makes us new creations in Christ, reborn and reconciled with God. Christ is our Lord and for everything he has done we should be the most thankful people in this world.

We need to learn to appreciate what we have, to be content with the blessings we have every day.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

This is a challenge for every Christian. We wrestle between the desire of this world and the acknowledgement of the blessing we have received. When we focus on the world we want more, when we focus on God, we express gratitude.

A fellow pastor once explained this by giving an example of a young man who had recently passed his certification as a CPA. This man was the son of an immigrant family, and he was very proud with how far he had come in life.

When he was home visiting his father, he was appalled by how little his father knew of proper business practices. He visited the little shop his father owned and criticized his father for how he kept his accounting books and how little he really understood about turning a profit in business.

His father told him, 'Son, when I came to this country, I had the clothes on my back. Now your brother works in a company, your sister is a teacher, and you are an accountant. Your mother and I own this small business, we own our house and a car. Add all of those things up and remove the shirt and pants. That is how much I have in profit.'

Add it all up! That is what Christians are called to do, we are called to add it all up, everything we have in this life. Every human comes into this life with their body and the breath they have been given by God. Everything else we get while we are on this planet is a gift from God. The skills we have, the experiences we have, the relationships, the possessions, even the very breath we have each day is a blessing from God. How is it possible for us to express our thankfulness, our gratitude for these things?

This is why we are called to focus and give thanks for the things we have and not get caught up in the things we want. Our hearts grow discontent when we envy the things other people have, and when we are filled with envy and discontent, we lose our ability to be thankful and carry out acts of gratitude. We need to learn to be content with the things we have been blessed with and not set our focus on grasping for the things that others possess. When we learn to be content, we are that much closer to being thankful to God every day.

When need to let go of envy and desire, things which the world promotes. We may never be rich by worldly standards, we may never own the best car, have the newest phone, have an overflowing bank account or high salary job, but we are already so much richer than many others in this world, just because we have food on our tables, a roof over our heads and clothing on our bodies than many others in this world will ever be! We have gotten so use to having, so use to having more than we need that we have begun to believe that these things are a right rather than a blessing from God. It is that sense of entitlement that causes us to live our lives seeking more rather than living content with what we have. God says he will provide for our needs, not for our wants. We do not need a bigger car, a bigger house, a bigger salary, or whatever else we think that we are entitled to in this world, because often those things would just lead us further and further from God. When we get rid of that sense of entitlement, when we learn to see our blessing, we are able to Thank God for all he provides. God does not owe us anything. God gave us the greatest gift we could ever receive in his reconciliation with us through the blood of Christ.

Christians need to focus on our blessings rather than take them for granted. When we sit down for a meal, we should be giving thanks to God for that food we are about to receive. Many people do this as a habit, or out of a sense of tradition, but we should be truly thankful, we have that meal, and probably another one coming just a few hours later. There are people in this world who will have no meal today, or tomorrow, and are struggling how to feed their children without any concern for themselves. If we knew what it was like to go without, we would probably be a lot more thankful for the things we have. If we really understood what it was like to go without food for a few days, we would be a lot more grateful for the plate we have in front of us this day. We need to remember that if we have plenty it is a blessing from God, it is through his grace alone. It is through the gifts he has given us in this life that we have developed the skills we have, we work where we work, we have our health, we have our friends and family. We need to remember that even when we feel we do not have enough, that the things we do have are by his grace and through his blessings, when we only have enough food for a single meal, we should be grateful, when we are sick, but still alive we should be grateful, when we have a roof over our heads or clothing on our bodies, we should be grateful. We need to learn to not take the simple things we have in this life for granted but instead be thankful and offer acts of gratitude through praise, prayer, and worship for them every day.

It is the acts of gratitude that change the way we live. When we seek out ways to express our thankfulness in words of prayer, in acts of praise and worship. We need to live our lives transformed by Christ, letting our thankfulness be reflected in how we live. Showing how grateful we are to our God for all the blessings he has provided for us in this world. Living our lives as living sacrifices to God, as that salt and light of this world, giving praise and thanks to God in all things and in all places. We need to praise Him, rejoice in Him, and proclaim Him to the world. We need to find every way we can to

reflect His transformative power into the world around us, showing people how He can transform their lives the same way that He has transformed ours.

It is gratitude that helps us make sense of our past, brings peace to our present and creates a vision for our tomorrow. As we leave here today, I hope and pray that we will all spend time recognizing all of the blessings that we have going on in our life circumstances and situations. That we will think about the things we have been focused on, where we are spending our times and energy, whether we are focused on the things of this world or on God. And when we discover that we are focused more on the things of this world than on our God, let us learn to be like Matthew Henry, to find the blessings that are hidden within the circumstances and situations we are in even when they may be hard to find. Let us learn to respond to God with gratitude for the blessings we have in our lives each and every day. Let us celebrate thanksgiving every day.

Let us pray,

We Thank You for All Your Benefits

Lord God, heavenly Father,
 we thank you for all your benefits.
 You have given us body and life
 and have graciously sustained us to this day.
 Do not take your blessing from us.
 Preserve us from greed,
 that we may serve you only,
 love you and abide in you
 and not defile ourselves by idolatrous love
 of wealth or goods,
 but hope and trust only in your grace;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one true God, now and forever.

Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Trinity 15

Music Ministry: "Give Thanks" by Choir

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3). We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer:

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspert offering@gmail.com If you have an Offering Envelope #, please

include it in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer
(Congregant Prepared)

Closing Hymn # 338: “Let All Things Now Living”

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us onto the end of our days,
God’s banners are o’er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine,
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim
God divine.

We too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing with glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are our living head.
Teach us to be your body here on earth—
your hands, your feet, your eyes, and your compassionate heart.
Lord, send the impulses of your love into the sinews of this church.
May your will and thoughts direct us.
Let your hands, through our hands, supply food for our neighbors’ hunger.
Let them hear your voice as we visit and talk with them.
Let children come to us and sit in our laps, as they sat in yours.
Without you as our head, Lord, we are lifeless.
We wait for your power, your Word, your instruction.
Fill us with your life and love,
In the name of Jesus Christ,
Who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit as the one true God,
Now and forever, we pray. Amen.

Benediction

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and minds in the coming days
through the grace of Jesus Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.