



Order of Service—FULL SCRIPT

Thanksgiving Powerpoint and Bells (no greeting)

FIRST DAY Genesis 1:1-5

R: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning — the first day. ^{NIV84}

Hymn of Invocation CW 280:1,3,6 *Thy Strong Word*

**Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At thy speaking it was done. For created light we thank thee
While thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hope confess.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**God the Father, light-creator,
To thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light from Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!**

P: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

C: Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: His steadfast love endures forever!

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Children's Message
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands LAPPY, p111

CUE 9—Hello, boys and girls, and Happy Thanksgiving! Today I brought something with me. What is this? That's right! It is a globe, or the earth. When we see the earth like this, we are amazed by everything in it, aren't we? What do you see on this globe? Yes, we can see land and water and mountains and rivers and all sorts of things. Then there are things that we can't see from a distance, like people and animals and insects and food and cars and houses and clothes and books and buildings and even more things that are microscopic.

If we think about it too much, it is almost too much to comprehend, isn't it? That is why I like the song, *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*. This song reminds us that God has everything on this earth in his hands. He created the earth and everything in it and he keeps it all in his care. **CUES 10.1-2**—Let's sing it now:

**He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole wide world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.**

CUE 11—We have so much to be thankful for today, but what we are most thankful for today and every day is God's Son, Jesus, who came to this very earth to save us from our sins. He was born in a manger and walked this land preaching and teaching about God's plan to bring the whole world everlasting life. Then he went to the cross to die for our sins, so that we might live with him forever in heaven.

That's the best news of all because it reminds us that God has US in his hands and he will never let us go.

CUES 12.1-3—Let's pray: Thank you for the earth and everything in it, O God. Let us never take for granted all the blessings of your creation. Help us each day to remember that you so loved the world that you gave your one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Amen.

SECOND DAY Genesis 1:6-8

R: And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning — the second day. ^{NIV84}

Old Testament Reading ... from Isaiah 55

P: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!...Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live...Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

THIRD DAY Genesis 1:9-13

R: And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the third day. ^{NIV84}

Psalmody ... from Psalm 65

(The organist introduces the hymn [CW 609] before the pastor speaks the first time, then holds the final chord of each hymn verse section softly beneath each spoken section.)

P: Praise is due to you, O God; and to you shall vows be performed.

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

P: Happy are those whom you choose, whom you bring to live in your sanctuary. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house.

**We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

P: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation. You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

**We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you;
Through trial and tempest our Guide you have been.**

P: You calm the roaring of the seas and the noise of the waves; you calm the uproar of the peoples. The whole world stands in awe of the great things you have done.

**When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

P: You send abundant rain on the plowed fields and soak them with water; you soften the soil with showers and cause the young plants to grow. You crown the year with bounty.

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

P: When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house.

**With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

FOURTH DAY Genesis 1:14-19

R: And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights — the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the fourth day. ^{NIV84}

New Testament Reading ... from 1 Corinthians 15

P: But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body...There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body...For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed...Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

FIFTH DAY Genesis 1:20-23

R: And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning — the fifth day. ^{NIV84}

Hymn of Response CW 234:1-2

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

**O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning And, as on wings of an
eagle, uplifting, sustaining.**

**Have you not seen all that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?**

Holy Gospel ... Matthew 6:25-33

P: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Hymn of Response CW 234:4-5

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; Surely his goodness
and mercy shall daily attend you.**

**Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
As with his love he befriends you.**

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!

**All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound
from his people again.**

Gladly forever adore him!

SIXTH DAY Genesis 1:24a, 25b-27, 31

R: And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds...And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them...God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day. ^{NIV84}

Sermon ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Dear fellow thankful people:

CUE 36—One thing leads to another. We can certainly see that in the account of creation, can't we? Darkness and chaos gave way to light. Then came the sky, followed by the land and oceans. The land was then covered with living plants. The plants need the sun, so God created the sun, moon, stars, and planets. Then he filled the sky and oceans with living creatures. Finally he filled the land with all kinds of animals and insects, crowning his creation with human beings, created in his image to manage and care for it all, while enjoying perfect fellowship with him. Yes, one thing leads to another in creation.

CUE 37—In creation we find a God who is a lavish giver, intricately weaving the goodness of creation into a broad and complex tapestry, fitting the pieces of our universe together with precise care. All is custom-molded and form-fitted with absolute precision to conform to God's grand scheme of providence, life, and love.

One thing leads to another, indeed! At this grand festival time which we name Thanksgiving, that message must reign supreme. During this time of harvest and plenty, both our church and our nation have found it proper to remind us all of the cause and effect relationship that exists between ourselves and our good God. One thing—namely God's lavish giving—leads to another—namely our thanks!

CUE 38—And God's giving and loving and grace don't stop with the first chapter of Genesis. Simply read a little farther and you'll find that one thing leading to another cuts both ways. One thing—sin—leads to another—death! Yet, even that ominous problem is covered in God's grand scheme. For the rest of Scripture recounts the long and steady, intricate and perfect plan of God. In it, one thing leads to another and another and another, as Abraham is called, a nation is formed from his offspring, a covenant is made at Sinai, promises are promised, prophecies are prophesied, the world is made ready, the long-promised and prophesied Christ is born, he leads a perfect life, he suffers, he dies an innocent death to pay for our sins, he rises from the dead in victory, and one thing—God's great grace—leads to another—our redemption, new life, fellowship with God, eternity!

CUE 39—This is the good news that we share during this time of Thanksgiving—that even as we are part of God's creation, molded of God's design, and shaped with God's own hands, we are called to join in the hymn of all creation. "One thing leads to another," the forests whisper. "One thing leads to another," the oceans roar. "One thing leads to another," the starry heavens echo. "One thing leads to another," the birds chirp, the stallions whinny, the dogs bark, the whales sing! God's creating and redeeming love leads to our thanks—not just for a day, not just once in a while, but for our whole life, and eternity, too! Amen. Thanks be to God! Amen!

CUE 40:1-7—Hymn CW 610 *Now Thank We All Our God*

**Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices.
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed.
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

SEVENTH DAY Genesis 2:1-2

R: Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ^{NIV84}

Offering

The members of Trinity congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering that supports our church's ministry, but you are welcome to do so. Guests may fill out a registration form found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

Prayers

P: O God, from whom comes down every good and perfect gift, let all creation join to praise your goodness. On the first day, you brought light, seen today in fire and photons, lasers and light shows, color and campfire, energy and everything that springs from your brightness. For all your gifts of creation,

C: We give you thanks, O gracious God!

P: On the second day, you graced creation with waters below and above, with the beautiful blue of the sea and the sky. To this day, you continue to grace the world with rain that refreshes and the snow that sends shivers, and with the atmosphere and the blessings that come down through it. For all your gifts of creation,

C: We give you thanks, O gracious God!

P: The gifts you granted us on the third day are land, dry and wet, deserts and bogs, canyons and cactus, valleys and vines, fruits for our eating and nuts we can shell, awesome oceans and plains of grain, the earth and all its bounty. For all your gifts of creation,

C: We give you thanks, O gracious God!

P: The fourth day you brought forth the heavenly lights: the beacon of the sun, the lantern of the moon, the mystery of the planets and stars. You balance creation with sunny days and cool evenings, seasons and years and tides and time. For all your gifts of creation,

C: We give you thanks, O gracious God!

P: Day five you provided things that flap and flutter, squawk and chirp; you made whales

and minnows, eagles and eggs, and everything that flies to the heights of your heavens and swims to the depths of your oceans. For all your gifts of creation,

C: We give you thanks, O gracious God!

P: The sixth day reveals your grand glory when you designed things that creep and crawl, stalk and strut. We marvel at humans and hugs, ourselves and your Son, who entered this world to make us your own again. For all your gifts of creation,

C: We give you thanks, O gracious God!

P: For the seventh day when you rested, we rejoice in pillows and hammocks, mattresses and meditation, workless weekends and worship, time to recharge and celebrate your creation so that we can praise you more. For all your gifts of creation,

C: We give you thanks, O gracious God!

P: Let all creation join to praise your goodness and your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen!

Lord's Prayer tune CW 618

**Our heav'nly Father, hear your faithful children's prayer:
Your name, divine and dear, be hallowed ev'rywhere!
Your kingdom come! Your heav'nly will Among us, still, on earth be done!**

**The bread for which we yearn each day, O Father, give.
Forgive us, as in turn our debtors we forgive.
Your people lead in trial's hour. From Satan's pow'r let us be freed!**

**For you, O Lord, are King; all pow'r is yours, we own;
Your glory now we sing, the glory yours alone.
So shall it be; your kingdom, might, And glory bright, eternally!**

Benediction

P: Receive with believing hearts, the benediction of our Lord.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn CW 334 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise him, all creatures here below!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!**

Worship Leader: Pastor Richard D. Starr
Reader: Principal Philip A. Haefner
Musician: Mr. Ryan J. Friske

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Trinity Harvest Altar. What a beautiful reminder of God's abundant blessings to us!