

Be Glad and Sing
Psalm 67
November 25, 2021

Does the Psalmist seem happy with the Lord? This is a Psalm or a Song that was given to the Choirmaster to be played with stringed instruments. The Lutheran Study Bible points to the stringed instruments as a harp and a lute. They didn't make mention of any others.

The Psalm seems to focus on the local church but then it widens to include other nations on the earth as well. It talks of singing for joy by all the nations of the earth. All nations should recognize that the Lord has blessed all nations and peoples no matter who they are as they look to Him.

If you think of harvest time, there was always good food. There was a bounty of many different foods. Turkeys, as well as other meats. There was the produce of the garden and field to make the fixings to go along with the turkey. Much of it was raised by the family and was used by the family to provide a great thanksgiving meal.

There isn't a mention of eating in this Psalm but there is the line where the Psalmist points, not to the future that he is wanting to be blessed but to the harvest, the earth that has yielded its increase.

In the fall of the year when we have Thanksgiving, we look to what was produced for us this past year. The change to the new year is a month or so away but we are past most of the harvesting and are enjoying the fruit of our labors, giving thanks, glad that the Lord has been with us another year and now we can sing of all He has done for us this last year.

It may be appropriate that Thanksgiving comes at the end of the Church year. We think of giving thanks when the harvest is in. We can give thanks for what we see has happened over the past year and to recognize what the Lord has done for us over the growing season and in the last year of the Church.

The Psalmist sees how it is good to give thanks a praise realizing that without the Lord, where would any of them be, even those who don't know Him. Yes, he says all nations should be glad and sing of the greatness of God as not only is He the Lord of the increase on the earth but He is also the one who judges with equity, not looking at one person over another, judged on the same standard, no matter who they are.

We may have some questions about judging with equity these days. It seems there is more than one standard when it comes to different people in our world, in our nation. Because we see such variation in how people are treated and judged in this

nation, we might wonder what God is doing to try to keep it equitable between all people who are here.

We give thanks once again to the Lord for what He has done for us since the last Thanksgiving. Much we have to be thankful for even with the China virus and the new administration of the government occupying our minds over the past year. Yes, there have been some challenges but we have looked to the Lord to deliver us all from what could have been for it could have been much worse. Many of you probably have had friends a family members who have been hit with the virus and yet made it through to be able to continue on with their lives. We give thanks to God for that.

Many are dealing with the changes the government has made over the last year. It has been a challenge for many as things don't seem to be getting better very fast. We have to deal with the uncertainty of the day to day, hoping things will get back to normal.

The Psalmist sees the Lord as the one who is in charge of the world. He wants to look to the Lord who makes His face shine on us as evidenced by His blessing us and being gracious to us.

With Thanksgiving, we normally think of giving thanks for the food that will soon be in our mouths and stomachs but we should never relegate to second place the thanks we should give for the greatest harvest and that is the one sacrifice for us of Jesus on the cross.

We think of harvesting as that of crops or of animals from the field to provide for our physical needs and yet Jesus, by His shedding His blood on the cross for our sins, as only He could do was the greatest harvest, the harvest of righteousness, His righteousness given to us who don't deserve it so that we could be seen by God as having been redeemed.

We come this Day of Thanksgiving to His house to receive from Him through His Word. We come wanting to receive and to give thanks in words and song of the many blessings He has bestowed on us both physically and spiritually.

Many will be sitting down to Thanksgiving meals. Will they all give thanks to God who provides so abundantly or will they just dig in, not acknowledging where all this good stuff comes from and if it weren't for Him, there might not be what they are enjoying, as it is He who has been watching over them and the whole world to provide for it.

So many times people look to their hard work over the past year and think now is another Thanksgiving Day to see how well they are doing. Does God come to mind? If He does, is it that He is the one that has been with them daily, working in their lives to

help them to move forward each day or is He just out there to give thanks to once a year, if that?

It is good that Thanksgiving comes in the Fall of the year. We are opposite in a way of Easter and the Thanksgiving to the Lord for going to the cross and dying for our sins and then not only rising from the grave but then He promises that we too will rise on the last day. We will rise bodily and will live forever with Him in a new heaven and earth, one where the sweat of our brow will not be needed but we will live in the bliss of that new heaven and earth without all that challenges us and our faith here on this earth.

We are on the other side of the year where we look back over the church year before we once again look back to where it all began in the stable to the baby that came to live His life for us.

Today though we are giving thanks, by being glad of what the Lord continues to do and to let that be known in song. Yes, we sing, looking to the Lord, lifting up our voices to Him who has blessed us so much. We may have had to live through challenges this past year since the last Thanksgiving but we still are free to come here to receive from the Lord.

We can give thanks for the advancements in medicine that have helped to counteract the deadliness of the virus and the vaccines and the treatments have saved many people. We are blessed to live in this country where developments to help people in medical challenges seem to keep coming as there are many who want to help people to live better lives.

Today we celebrate all that the Lord has given us. We know we are given more than we deserve but God has a way of doing that. He, like a good Father wants the best for His children. Yes, we have been blessed and look forward to His blessing us in the future. As the Lord makes His face shine on us, we understand that we are not left somewhere in the dark, but are seen by Him as He continues to work in our lives.

Today we are glad. We are glad for all we have been given and to that end we sing, sing of the many blessings He has given and continues to give as we look to Him for our bountiful lives.