

Easter 3A April 26 2020  
Psalm 116:1-4,12-19 [17]  
St Peter's Lutheran Church Elizabeth  
Greg Bensted

Grace, peace, and love to you beautiful Beloved of God, from Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.* Let's pray: Heavenly Father, we call on your name to offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving from the depths of our souls for salvation, life, and the Church. Help us as Church, to love one another deeply from the heart. Amen.

What if we lived every day of our lives giving thanks? For people, relationships, opportunities, failures, successes, sins, challenges, joys, losses, nature, cooking, washing dishes, ironing, paying bills, illnesses, bus transport, work, and myriad other everyday things—each pointing to a reason for thanksgiving.

Imagine the change in our outlook, if we saw everything as the basis for offering thanks. I think we'd discover that we live only by the merciful sufficiency of God. We'd truly learn about all that we have and all that we are. We'd become acutely aware of the ever-presence and the ever-goodness of God.

Meister Eckhart, a German monk from the 13<sup>th</sup> century sums it up neatly: "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." [1]

That's why this morning, I am compelled by the Spirit's inspiration to simply give thanks.

Thank you, Yvonne A. for hugs and a bright smile,  
Thank you, Peter and Kathie for going the extra mile.

Thank you, Eddie and Theary for your hospitality,  
Thank you, Mick and Cindi for earthiness and fidelity.

Thank you, Garry and Julie for sweet sincerity,  
Thank you, Pam for tolerating my jocularities.

Thank you, Geoff and Janette for technical gifts,  
Thank you, Brenton and Jan for support that lifts.

Thank you, Auriel for joining us later,  
Thank you, Elaine for leaving us greater.

Thank you, Doug for a cuppa' and a g'day,  
Thank you, Bev for your uncomplicated way.

Thank you, Tony for whiskey and wit, Bernie for joyful notes you hit.  
Thank you, Natalee for administration, Steve for creative innovation.

Thank you, Judy D. for calming presence,  
Thank you, Val D. for endearing effervescence.

Thank you, Elizabeth F. for keeping others involved,  
Thank you, Ella for kindness and resolve.

Thank you, Ann for humility and dignity,  
Thank you, Valarie and Tim for sibling unanimity.

Thank you, Barry and Ruth for accepting what each day brings,  
Thank you, George for putting your hand to just about anything.

Thank you, Ron and Solveiga for praying with audacity,  
Thank you, Colleen and Dave for perseverance and tenacity.

Thank you, Kingsley and Brittany for commitment to love,  
Thank you, Natalie for gentleness like a dove.

Thank you, Pat and Jordan for leaning on God's grace for living,  
Thank you, Garry and Heather for warm humour and giving.

Thank you, Lila for courage to climb the rope,  
Thank you, Pauline for generosity, optimism, and hope.

Thank you, Matt and Michelle for your friendly countenance,  
Thank you, Lorna for organising scumdidlyumptious sustenance.

Thank you, Helen for humble adoration,  
Thank you, Erica and Monte for remembrance of incarnate oblation.

Thank you, Colin and Glenys for making our hearts dance,  
Thank you, Anthony and Joanne for the joy of new romance.

Thank you, Darren and Deborah for new things discovered,  
Thank you, James, know that you're one of His Beloved.

Thank you, Shaun for hard work and provision,  
Thank you, Stephanie for earnest persistence.

Thank you, Merv and Shirley for herding the generations,  
Thank you, Wayne for repairing our discombobulation.

Thank you, Brenz and Elizabeth for unobfuscated piety,  
Thank you, John and Yvonne for encouragement and sensibility.

Thank you, Rita for faith adorned and quietude,  
Thank you, Allan and Gisela for plants, art, and gratitude.

Thank you, Nita for steadfastness in the face of adversity,  
Thank you, Adolf for confidence in Holy Spirit's perspicuity.

Thank you, David and Heather for devotion to church and mission,  
Thank you, Matthew and Lisa for growing faith's libation.

Thank you, Max for stickability.  
Thank you, Carol for reverent humility,

Thank you, Irene for maintaining ties,  
Thank you, Pat Mac for smiling heart and eyes.

Thank you, Bernie and Dianne for visual features,  
Thank you, Rosemary for love of all creatures.

Thank you, Ian and Maralyn for scripture revealed,  
Thank you, Pat N. for conviction annealed.

Thank you, Jason for water and Spirit you treasure,  
Thank you, Joanne for embracing simple pleasures.

Thank you, Lynette for attending when able,  
Thank you, Robert and Jane for sharing the Lord's Table.

Thank you, Barry and Laraine for gentleness and sweetness,  
Thank you, Geoff and Adele for displaying love's deepness.

Thank you, Graham for giving so much time (and fruit) to others,  
Thank you, Aileen for being a terrific mother.

Thank you, John and Valerie for your first-class greetings,  
Thank you, Mayla for a smile that brightens our meetings.

Thank you, Jared and Julie for hanging on when things get demanding,  
Thank you, Grace for knowing and understanding.

Thank you, Con and Yvonne for planting many early seeds,  
Thank you, Eric and Marilyn for humility and peace.

Thank you, Dean and Kay for laughter and joy,  
Thank you, Kay S. for trusting in God to buoy.

Thank you, Tessa and Seth for lively participation,  
Thank you, Elizabeth and Faith for not giving in to life's gyrations.

Thank you, Mary for your feisty disposition,  
Thank you, Rosalie for not yielding to frustration.

Thank you, Janine for maintaining conviviality,  
Thank you, Rod for your unconventionality.

Thank you, Julie T. for thankfulness unspoken,  
Thank you, Allan and Joyleen for vows unbroken.

Thank you, Fay T. for traditions that last,  
Thank you, Eric and Lyn for open home and heart.

Thank you, Robert and Tina for courageous resolve,  
Thank you, Plonie for rejoicing when the Lord's Supper absolves.

Thank you, Graeme and Maxine for Queensland stories and connections,  
Thank you, Perce and Rene for sweet affection.

Thank you, Debbie for the smiles despite the toll,  
Thank you, Audrey for delighting in food for the soul.

Thank you, Marianne for hanging in,  
Thank you, Judy Y. for renewed vigour and vim.

Thank you, Kyle and Nicole for building solid foundations,  
Thank you, Les and Pauline for history's lively recounting.

Thank you, Tony and Edith for candles from which both ends burn,  
Thank you, Colleen for knowing where to turn.

Thank you, children for receptive faith and laughter,  
Thank you, rat-pack for caring and sharing with each other.

For those I've undoubtedly forgotten, God certainly remembers,  
Thank you, all, for prayers loving and tender.

Thank you, Mum and Dad for everything,  
Thank you, beautiful family for making my heart sing.

Thank you, God that though the law kills,  
The gospel is mightier to resurrect and thrill.

Thank you, Lord for life and fun,  
Father, Son, and Spirit, three in one.

Thank you, Holy Trinity for all these things,  
In your blessed name hope eternal springs.

*I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. **O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever** (1 Chronicles 16:34). Amen.*

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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[1] Meister Eckhart, English Master Eckhart, original name Johannes Eckhart, also called Eckhart von Hochheim, Eckhart also spelled Ekehart, (born c. 1260, Hochheim?, Thuringia [now in Germany]—died 1327/28?, Avignon, France), Dominican theologian and writer who was the greatest German speculative mystic. In the transcripts of his sermons in German and Latin, he charts the course of union between the individual soul and God. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Meister-Eckhart> Accessed 19/04/2020.