



# Unwrapping the

# Gifts

## A Thanksgiving Hymn Guide

Thanksgiving is, strictly speaking, a feast of the First Article. And so we confess that it is our solemn duty to “thank and praise” our kind and heavenly Father. And yet it is also a gift of the Second Article, since for the Christian, all thanks is offered in and through Christ. Finally, it is also a gift of the Third Article, for such thanksgiving is finally possible only for the one who has been brought to faith in Christ, and such faith is invariably the work of the Holy Spirit Who leads us to receive all things with thanks and praise.

How beautifully do the hymns of Thanksgiving join all this together and sing it out in praise to the Lord! Here is a suggested way to order the hymns for this day:

Opening or entrance hymn: Lutheran Service Book (LSB) 892 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Office hymn or hymn of the day: LSB 785 *We Praise You, O God*

Additional hymn: LSB 894 *For the Fruits of His Creation*

Final hymn: LSB 895 *Now Thank We All Our God*

Through these solid hymns of Thanksgiving, the people of God acknowledge the gifts of the First Article, the fruits of all creation, and yet receive them as benevolence on account of the Son and acknowledged in and through the Holy Spirit. Additionally, the Te Deum this day might well be sung, either in its prose setting (LSB 223ff.) or in one of its hymnic paraphrases (LSB 939, 940, 941).