

Thanksgiving, 2021

Luke 17:11-19

November 24, 2021

Pastor Dave Bolte



You will recognize this song . . .

AMAZING Acapella Doxology Cover - Trevor Hunt feat. Kyle Harden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvwHsQ7klCg>

How many times have you sung that in your life?

It's called the **Doxology**: it's a hymn verse that you have probably been singing at various events in your life since you were a child. It is a powerful statement of praise that the Christian Church has been singing since it was first written in 1674.

The word "doxology" is a word that comes from two Greek words: *glory* & *word* ... a **doxology** is a "*word of glory*" directed to God. A **doxology** is a short hymn of praise to God in various Christian worship services, often added to the end of canticles, psalms, and hymns. Among Christian traditions a **doxology** is typically a sung expression of praise to the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Today/tonight we are especially mindful of praise and Thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity. We praise **God the Father** for His care and concern in our daily lives that extends to the

smallest detail in our lives; yes we thank you for all the blessings he so freely gives to us. We praise God that He is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble; the He watches over our coming and going and all things at all times.

We praise **God the Son** for living a holy and perfect life for us; for His sacrificial death on the cross and His powerful resurrection from the dead on the Third Day. We praise Him for His mercy to us poor sinners in giving us the gifts of salvation and eternal life.

We praise **God the Holy Spirit** for the gift of faith to believe in Jesus the Savior; and for His presence in our lives that nurtures our faith and sanctifies our daily living.

Doxologies are "**words of glory**" that praise God for who He is and what He has done in our lives!

There are some familiar doxologies in the Bible, for instance,

- the **Christmas story**, the angels sing a **doxology** to praise God: *"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill to men."*
- Or think of the end of the **Lord's Prayer**, we pray a **doxology**, *"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen."*

- In traditional Lutheran worship service, we sing a **doxology** when we sing the **Gloria Patri**: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

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Today/tonight is Thanksgiving Eve. **This holiday of Thanksgiving is like a personal doxology, isn’t it?**

- **Outwardly**, as a congregation, we have gathered together in public worship to thank God for His many blessings; and rightly so
- **inwardly**, as individuals, thanksgiving is like your own personal doxology.

Think of Thanksgiving as you finding “words of glory”
to praise and thank the Lord
for all His blessings in your life! (2x)

It starts here in **worship**, we have gathered together, publicly, to acknowledge that our blessings come from the One True God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As we hear God’s Word of forgiveness and blessing, our hearts rejoice and we speak “words of glory” to the Lord. **Here we formally, publicly, and with others, sing our doxologies to God.**

And then the doxology goes on to **your lips**. Your words reflect what is in your heart; the **words** of your daily prayers express the doxology of your heart; your **words** acknowledge the Lord God as the giver of your daily bread and of all good things; your **words** confess to others that God is good, kind, and generous to you through faith in Christ. The doxology of your heart is reflected in your words; it's on your **lips**; and it is seen in your **life**.

Through faith in Christ, you live a life that that is influenced by God's grace and goodness. Your Christian life is framed by public worship and private prayer. God's goodness, kindness and generosity motivates you to live a holy life!

*Like the leper healed by Jesus in the Gospel lesson, you know something significant has happened to you; and you know Who did it. **You have a new life --- your entire life becomes a doxology as you live a holy life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.***

Tonight, think about Thanksgiving as your personal doxology. Find “words of glory” to praise and thank the Lord for all His blessings in your life. Stop and think and reflect and meditate on God's goodness, kindness, and generosity to you in the Lord Jesus Christ! Let's close by singing together the doxology together *(please stand)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.