June 10, 2018 (Brandon Knott)

**PRAYER (thanksgiving)**

We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good,  
    for your steadfast love endures forever.

We are thankful… because the sacrifices that we offer today (and continually) are sacrifices of praise, thanksgiving – not to earn your favor, but offered in the confidence that we *have it* – “This we *know* that God is *for us*” (Ps 56).

Though an army encamp against us, our hearts shall not fear;

Though war arise against us, yet we will be confident. (Psalm 27)

…because our God fights for us.

We give thanks to you, the God of gods, for your steadfast love endures forever.

**NATIONAL (thanksgiving)**

We are thankful for this in our nation: that we as yet live in a country where the exercise of Christian conscience can still be protected, even when it dramatically opposes the sensibilities of the culture.

We are thankful, Lord, to gather openly and freely this morning, to worship the triune God of the Bible. You have given us these freedoms, God, and to you we are thankful.

**LOCAL (thanksgiving)**

We are thankful for this in our city: you have established churches and ministries in the name of Christ who are advocating for the unborn, caring for orphans, equipping the saints for the work of ministry, and who are imploring the lost on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God.

We are thankful, Lord, that in this city: as many as you have appointed to eternal life will certainly be saved and that you who began a good work in each one of your people will certainly bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus.

**LOCAL CHURCH (thanksgiving)**

We are thankful you have called a people for yourself, represented here today, out of darkness into light, out of bondage into freedom, out of fear into confidence, and from being enemies with you to being called your friends, your children, and your people.

You, Lord, have remembered us in our low estate,  
and rescued us from our foes,  
    for your steadfast love endures forever;

Lord, we are thankful that you have given us an undershepherd, Pastor Ryan, who…

faithfully speaks to us the Word of God

live a life that gives us an example of faith to follow

keep watch over our souls, and joyfully!

And shares with us not only the gospel of God, but also himself.

And like you, Lord, he fights for us: in the prayer closet, in his study, and in this pulpit

We give thanks to you, the God of heaven,  
    for your steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.