



St John's

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
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Thanksgiving Eve

24 November 2021 7:00 P.M.

Welcome to this house of the Lord. May everyone find God's peace and Christian friendship here. May our Savior Jesus draw everyone closer to Himself through this service.

We *love* to have **Children** with us in the pews for worship. If they are crying loudly, the **Parents' Room** (just outside the worship area) is a good place for children to regain their composure. Then come back so we can all worship together.

The message God proclaims in His Word is so vital for this life and for the next, we hope everyone will read the Bible daily at home, and then come back for worship again and again!

Pre-Worship Pondering:

-Paul Gerhardt

*You are the Fount of grace, O Lord, the Spring so full and free,
Whence saving health and goodness flow each day so bounteously.*

*You feed us well from year to year and constant You abide;
When danger fills our hearts with fear, with help You're at our side.*

*With patience our whole lives You guide, nor long Your anger keep,
You cast our every sin aside into the ocean's deep.*

*Then up, my heart, rejoice and sing, a cheerful trust maintain!
For God, your Source of everything, Your portion will remain.*

Invocation and Call to Worship

Pastor: *In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.*

Congregation: Amen. Give thanks to the LORD, Call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.

P: The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time.

C: You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

P: Fear [i.e. respect] the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing.

C: Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed are those who take refuge in Him. [Psalm 105:1; Psalm 145:15-16; Psalm 34:9,8]

Song

LAPPY p. 84*

Worship Dialog

[based on Psalm 103]

P: Praise the LORD, O my soul. All my inmost being praise His holy name.

C: Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

P: He forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases,

C: He redeems our lives from the pit and crowns us with love and compassion.

P: He satisfies our desires with good things

C: so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

P: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

C: He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

P: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him;

C: as far as the east is from the west so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

P: From everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear Him,

C: and His righteousness with their children's children,

P: with those who keep His covenant

C: and remember to obey His precepts.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God our Father, we thank You for Your goodness which comes to us new every day. How generous You are to provide for all our needs of body and soul! Send us Your Spirit through Your Word so we acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience.

C: Help us show our thanks for all You have done by how we live and talk. We ask it through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Congregation sings

(tune: CW612)

As Your prosp'ring hand has blest,
may we give You of our best
And by deeds of kindly love
for Your mercies grateful prove,
Singing thus through all our days:
“Praise to God, immortal praise!”

Old Testament Lesson

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

¹Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the Lord promised on oath to your forefathers.

²Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you. ⁶Observe the

commands of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and revering him. ⁷For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; ⁸a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. ¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

Congregation sings

(tune: CW615)

We thank You for Your blessings, Almighty Lord, our King;
We thank You for the harvest, yes, Lord, for ev'rything;
For flow'rs that bloom in springtime, for rip'ning fruits and grain,
For all the precious sunshine, and for the gentle rain.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 100

P: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.

P: Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His;

C: we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

P: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;

C: give thanks to Him and praise His name.

P: For the LORD is good and His love endures forever;

C: His faithfulness continues through all generations.

P: Glory be to God!

C: May we live for Jesus with grateful hearts. Amen.

Epistle Lesson

1 Timothy 2:1-6a

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the

truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

Congregation sings

(tune: CW615)

This day of great thanksgiving we count them one by one:
Our free and fruitful country, the great things You have done,
Our family, our loved ones, the guardian angels' care,
Our very self and heartbeat—Lord, hear our thankful prayer!

Verse of the Day

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

P: Alleluia! Praise the Lord! Be joyful always; pray continually;

C: give thanks in all circumstances,

P: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

C: Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” ¹⁴When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Congregation sings

(tune: CW615)

But best of all Your blessings, the rainbow of Your love,
Are all the many mercies Your Word brings from above.
Our life now has full meaning—Christ Jesus is our God!
Thanksgiving shall be living the way the Savior trod.

Profession of Faith

P: The First Article of the Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that He gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities. And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because He is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Hymn of the Day

#240

Sermon:

Genesis 7 – 9

It Was a Bad Year

In Response to God's Word, We Offer...

...Our Praise

Hymn #614*

...Our Gifts (We Bring an Offering)

...Our Prayers

p. 128 in the front of the hymnal

We Close our Worship...

...With a Blessing *sung by the Congregation* LAPPY p. 176

...With a Hymn

#611

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Pre-Worship Pondering – *"You are the Fount of Grace, O Lord,"* original German words by Paul Gerhardt, adapted by NAC from American Lutheran Hymnal of 1930, #495:2,3,4,6.

“As Your Prospering Hand has Blessed” from CW612:4, text by Anna L. Barbauld, in the public domain.

“We Thank You for Your Blessings” three congregational responses from CW615, by unknown author, in the public domain.

Having spent an hour in grateful remembrance and praise,
may you celebrate Thanksgiving Day under the Lord’s
blessing, to His glory.

Thoughts on Thanks

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. —William Arthur Ward

An itinerant country preacher rode into town early one Sunday morning many years ago and opened up the church. After the small flock had filed in, the preacher regaled them with a half-hour sermon on gratitude. His theme: “However small the gift, be always thankful to the Lord.”

After the sermon, the preacher passed his hat out into the congregation for the offering. When it came back to him, he shook it carefully, then turned it upside down. It was empty! The congregation watched to see whether he would practice what he had just preached.

The preacher shrugged and raised his hands to heaven, still holding the empty hat. “Lord,” he boomed, “I thank Thee that I got my hat back!”

Every disappointment provides us an occasion to thank God for what’s still going well.

If my whole body were a mouth, it would not be enough to thank Him. (from an Igbu song)

Matthew Henry, the Bible commentator, was once robbed of his wallet. In his diary he wrote: “Let me be thankful: first, because I have never been robbed before; second because although they took my wallet, they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.”