

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

November 21, 2018 7:00pm

Thanksgiving Service

A decorative graphic in brown and orange tones. It features a cluster of grapes on the left, a leaf in the middle, and a scroll-like flourish at the bottom. The word 'Thanksgiving' is in a large, bold, serif font, and 'Service' is in a smaller, elegant script font below it.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
.. **we Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
.. **we Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
.. **we Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
-



Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26) We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

Facebook

facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship
Sermons

<http://faithlutheranokemos.org/sermons/>

Love, Listen, and Take to Heart

Today's gospel is not only among the most popular and poetic passages in the Gospel of Matthew; it's also among the most comforting in the Bible. "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" (Matt. 6:26-27).

Though it is unquestionable that the pain of life burdens some more than others, still, everyone knows what it means to suffer—male and female, rich and poor, young and old, and everyone in between. Any reminder of God's constant love is good and necessary for all of us. However, we shouldn't confuse not worrying about the physical conditions of our own life with not worrying about the physical conditions of our neighbors. Even well-meaning Christians can make this error. Jesus tells us that the commandments to love God and to "love your neighbor as yourself" are the greatest commandments (Mark 12:31). Just as each of us has dreams and fears, so does our neighbor. Ignoring or dismissing the cries of the abused and the suffering of the vulnerable—especially when these injustices are perpetuated in Christ's own name—is sinful, not loving. As Christians, we are commanded to love.

We cannot "eat in plenty and be satisfied" (Joel 2:26) if our neighbor is denied entry to the banquet—whether in our homes, in church fellowship halls, or at community tables. In thanksgiving for all that our gracious God provides for us and the whole creation, we too can join in God's loving and creative care for all.

Wednesday, November 21, 2017

Thanksgiving Eve

7:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

Today's readings reflect two of the strains that go into the celebration of a national day of thanksgiving: gratitude for abundant harvest (Joel) and civic prayer for a peaceable common life (1 Timothy). The core meaning of Thanksgiving for many of us—a home feast for extended family and friends—is not reflected in the readings; but it is reflected weekly in the church's meal of thanksgiving (eucharist). What we wish for both these thanksgiving meals is that they will go deeper than celebration of one another and our own blessings, to recognize in our true Host one who wants everyone brought to the table.

If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.

The ushers also have large print copies of today's worship folder available.

If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.

There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.

PRELUDE

“We Gather Together”

arr. Dale Wood

GATHERING SONG

We Gather Together

KREMSER 12.11.12.11

Netherlands folk hymn, 1625
Trans. Theodore Baker, 1894

Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626
Harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!
Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



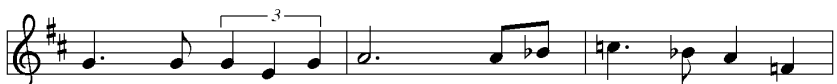
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on

earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

[Jesus said,] ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

MEDITATION

The assembly stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW #679

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Deb Borton-McDonough

arr. Keveren



OFFERING RESPONSE

Give Thanks



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

BLESSING

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.
Amen

May the God of faithfulness and
encouragement grant you to live in
harmony with one another, in
accordance with Christ Jesus.
Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace in believing, so that you may abound
in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

SENDING SONG

Let All Things Now Living

ELW #881

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, continuing to
give God your thanks and praise!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

arr. John Innes

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“Taste and see that the LORD is good!” (Psalm 34:8).
Before we dine at our holiday tables, let us feast on the
Word of the Lord. Welcome to Thanksgiving worship!

Immediately following this evening’s Thanksgiving service,
we are gathering for fellowship and PIE.
You are invited to join us for a slice or two or . . .



Pastor Ellen M. Schoepf
Secretary Katie Love
High School Director
Trinity/Middle School Director
Director of Music
Organist/Pianist

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