

Thanksgiving Eve

Worship 7:00 pm November 21, 2018





Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church! Please sign the red Worship Witness booklet to record your attendance with us this day, and indicate how many are communing. Then pass the booklet to the worshipers beside you in your row. If you are a guest, name tags are available for you to wear---we would be delighted to greet you by name. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from an usher.

about today's service

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.

P: Presiding Minister A: Assisting Minister L: Lector C: Congregation

+ Gathering +

Prelude: "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name"

Ron Livingston, piano

Tom Fettke

Welcome

[Stand]

Gathering Hymn No. 870: We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

Greeting

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

Thanksgiving Litany from Psalm 65

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!
- C: His love endures forever!
- P: Praise awaits you, O God!
- C: You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.
- P: The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.
- C: You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften the land with showers and bless its crops.
- P: You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.
- C: The hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing!
- P: And when we were overwhelmed by sins,
- C: You forgave our transgressions!
- P: Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!
- C: We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple!

Confession and Absolution

- P: O Lord, our thanksgiving has often been shallow and empty, for we have been selfish, greedy, and unwilling to share.
- C: Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of contentment, even though our wealth and blessings abound.
- P: O Lord, we have not been good stewards of your blessings. We have the abundance which you have given us, and which you intended for us to share with those in need, and we have selfishly spent it on ourselves.
- C: Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of mercy for those in need, and for thinking too much of ourselves.

- P: O Lord, we have often unthinkingly consumed your blessings, taking them for granted, and failing to remember their source. Do not cast us away, as we deserve, Lord, for we have complained about what we don't have, and we have wasted what you have provided.
- C: Forgive us, Lord, for empty words of thanks, and help us to live our thanks by being content and generous with our blessings.
- P: Our Savior has paid for these and all of our sins, and we shall not be condemned. Now, with the greatest blessing of all—the gift of forgiveness, full and free, through Christ—may God grant us the joyful response of contentment and unselfishness, and may his name be glorified in our thanksgiving and our thanks-living.

Prayer of the Day

- P: 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.
- C: Amen.

[Sit]

+ Word +

President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation 1863

First Reading Joel 2:21-27

The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when the Lord will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! ²²Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. ²³O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. ²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your

God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm for the Day

Psalm 126



- A: When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion, then were we like | those who dream.
- C: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations,

 "The Lord has done great | things for them."
- A: The Lord has done great | things for us, and we are | glad indeed.
- C: Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord, like the watercourses | of the Negeb.
- A: Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.
- C: Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers (who were pagans rather than Christians). We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and

humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time.⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

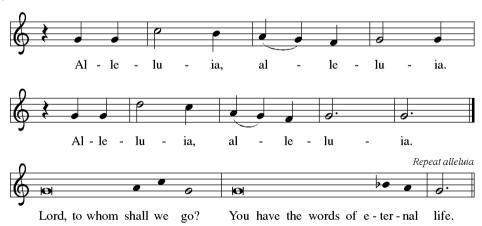
Anthem: "Celtic Laud"

Craig Courtney

For fruit of the vine, for harvest of wheat, for bread and for wine, the gift of Your feast, the cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise, O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.
For dove in the sky, for wind in the trees, for coal in the fire, Your spirit in me,
The cup of thanksgiving...
For springtime's green earth, for morning's first light, for every new birth, for grace and for life, the cup of thanksgiving...
Chancel Choir; Sara Schmehl, piano; Sara Lobaugh, flute

Chancel Choir

Alleluia



Gospel Acclamation

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading 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.

[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."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

[Sit]

Sermon: "Give Thanks"

Pastor Jack M. Horner

[Stand]

Prayers of Intercession Each petition ends:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

+ Meal +

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

[Sit]

Offering

Optional giving methods: Use the Give+ app on your mobile device • Use the Giving Station in the Gathering Space • Text an amount to 717-963-2281 (be sure to use a "\$") • Use the "DONATE" button on our website and e-blasts

Worship Witness: (Please sign booklet and return to center aisle.)

[Stand]

Presentation



Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful,

C: you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

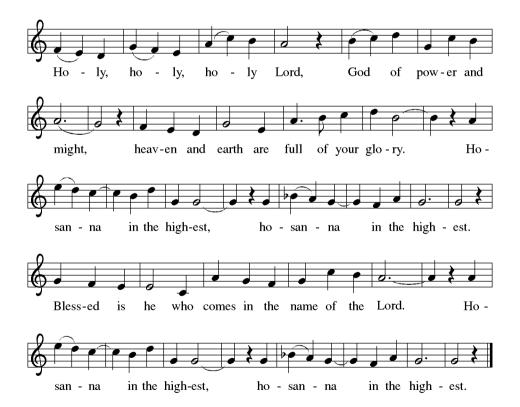
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

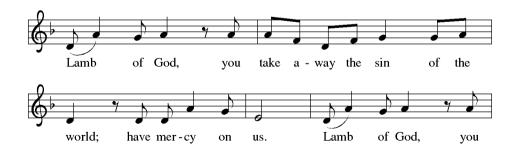
Invitation to Communion

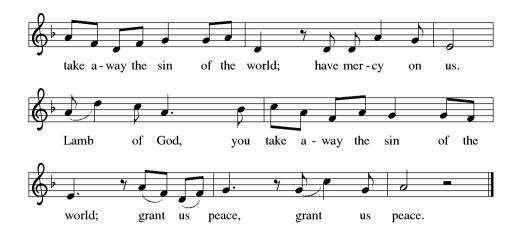
P: Come to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Sit]

Lamb of God





Distribution of Holy Communion

We invite all baptized Christians to the Lord's Table to celebrate the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament. Communion is by intinction. You will receive a wafer. Dip it in the chalice of wine before consuming. You may then return to your seat or come to the altar rail for prayer. Children and adults who aren't communing may come forward to receive a blessing. As a gesture of hospitality, we use dealcoholized wine (less than .5% alcohol). In addition, we offer glutenfree wafers, available upon request – please ask at the time of communion.

Hymn No. 693: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come [Stand]

Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

+ Sending +

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn No. 840: Now Thank We All Our God

NUM DANKET ALLE GOTT

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Now Thank We All Our God"

J. S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox

Portions of the service are reprinted from: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. *Sundays & Seasons*, Copyright © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License # 23686.

worship leaders

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Elizabeth E. Frey

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

Proclamation Reader: The Rev. John H. Brock

Assisting Minister: Nancy Martin

Lector: Jim Fox

Soundboard: Jay Killian

Greeters: Jane Killian (head greeter), Don and Charlotte Lazarchik

Ushers: H. L. Bishop, Jr. and Scott Wenrich (head ushers), David Addams, Alan Bowman, James Bowman, L. Kinch Bowman, Cindy Kuentzler, Frank Lentz, Kathy

Long, Harry Prowell, Kevin Shivers, John Slike, Linda Waechter

Altar Care: Joanne Austin, Barbara Park