



Sunday Worship
November 21, 2021
Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

It won't matter if your turkey is undercooked or even burnt to a crisp.

It won't matter if your pumpkin pie is left untouched by all seventeen of your guests.

It won't matter if you eat so much you don't have to eat all day Friday or all day Saturday.

It won't matter if you are able to gather with your closest relatives or circumstances just don't allow that this year.

What matter is this – Thanksgiving can remind us that being grateful is a choice. It is an invitation that God gives to each one of us. Scripture teaches us to “Give thanks in all circumstances.”

Another way to understand that verse is, “Give thanks in the midst of all circumstances.”

What are you thankful for – not about this coming Thursday – but today? Right now. As we turn to God in gratitude, what words come to mind? Allow those words to fill your heart as you turn to worship the Lord our God.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of bounty and blessing, we come to you this day in gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your holy name. Bless each of us here, that we may become truly blessings to others. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**HYMN #336 We Gather Together*

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we know that we forget about you; we forget to love you; we forget to help our neighbors; we forget to thank you. Forgive us. Grant us clear minds to know you, new hearts to love you and strong hands to serve you. Help us live this day, this week, and always so that our whole life is a thanksgiving to you. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

... remember the good news: **Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.**

**GLORIA PATRI*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 145

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
- ⁴ One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- ⁶ The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
- ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
- ¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

- ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
- ¹⁶ You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- ¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

**HYMN #37* Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

2. By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

SERMON Thanks-Giving

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY*

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

For all the ways you love us, we say THANK YOU!

For the ways you provide for us, we say THANK YOU!

For the opportunity to give, we say THANK YOU!

For the kingdom work this offering will do, we say THANK YOU!

For letting us be a part of your work, we say THANK YOU!

**May the thankful words on our lips
and the thankful meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you,
O God, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who is 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN #643 Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer
us;

and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: November 21, 2021

*****TODAY:**

Thanksgiving Lunch and Activities: Following worship all are invited to join for lunch in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Su will make a big pot of chicken soup while participants bring their own sandwich/salad or whatever else they would like to eat. We will then have stations set up that will allow us to engage in "thanks" activities. To prepare, think about what you have been grateful for since March 2020 that the pandemic has helped to reveal or highlight. Is there anything you are thankful for that is different than pre-pandemic days? Bring photos or write a small description.

Youth Group: Will meet tonight at 6:30 in the Youth Room. We will be having a Friends-giving dinner. We will play games and discuss what there is to be thankful for this time of year. Youth, you can invite friends outside of the church community as well!

Wednesday noontime lunch: Will resume December 1 at noon.

Thursday Night Bible Study and Fellowship: Will resume on December 2.

Poinsettias for the Christmas Season: Order forms can be found on the table as you're departing today. Or call Susan in the Church office to place your order.

Next Sunday November 28:

Hanging of the Greens and Ugly Sweater Sunday: To enter into this season of expectation and longing, we will "deck the halls" during worship on November 28th, the first Sunday of Advent. In addition to decorating our church, worship participants are also invited to wear their favorite/ugly Christmas sweater.

Advent Wreath making: Following service - we will be inviting those worshipping with us a home to join in this ritual as we all light the candles on our own wreaths together during the service. We are going to make a party of this by offering the opportunity to make a wreath after worship here at the church or on Zoom. Please feel free to bring your own lunch and eat while you create. If you would like to receive an Advent wreath making kit, please contact the office no later than Monday, November 22. Not everyone will need all the items in the kit so here are the possibilities. When you reserve your kit, please indicate which items you will need: **A metal tray to serve as the wreath base, floral wet foam oasis, live greens.

This year we are asking everyone to provide their own candles. Pillars are suggested. If you prefer tapers, please let us know so wire wreath forms can be ordered. Kits will be labeled and available at the church anytime from November 23-28 or, if needed, we will deliver.

Winter Apparel Drive: On December 5th, the youth group will be holding a drive for veterans, ex-offenders, the homeless and recovering addicts through *Absolute Access Powerhouse*. This organization provides a re-entry program that helps this population obtain permanent employment. Donations of coats, gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters, blankets – anything warm – can be brought to the church on the 5th between 1-3:00 PM.

Calendar: **November 23** - 7pm – Session meeting
 November 24 – 10:30am Deacon meeting.
 November 25-26 – Church Offices are closed for Thanksgiving

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright,
Sally Thiessen, Rebecca Stemplewicz, Rick Wiggins