

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



Thanksgiving Service

November 25 & 26, 2020

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Good and gracious God, in Your mercy You have gathered us together to worship and praise You. We give thanks to You, O Lord, that You continue to deal with us in love and compassion, that You are slow to anger, and abounding in love. You do not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities. May all that we do and say reflect Your love and bring honor and glory to You. Amen.

WELCOME

Jesus will Certainly Come again to Judge All

Opening Hymn:

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer

Christian Worship, Hymn # 609

 Verse 1

♪ **We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator!
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring:
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

 Verse 2

♪ **We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you.
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been;
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.**

INVOCATION

 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

 **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us approach the Lord with sincere hearts and confess our sins to God, our Maker and Ruler, that he might, for the sake of Jesus Christ, grant us forgiveness.

G **Heavenly Father, my Provider and Preserver, I confess that at times I receive Your blessings without proper thanks. I can be quick to doubt you and slow to praise you. Too often I readily expect your blessings yet reluctantly follow your commands. For these and all my sins, I ask for your forgiveness. Amen.**

M God speaks about himself the Psalms telling us: *“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 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. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”* (Psalm 103:8-12)

God so loved the world that he sent his Son. God counted our sin against his Son, who bore God’s righteous anger and received our due punishment. Christ Jesus has removed our sin from us by taking it to the cross and burying them in the grave. Therefore God promises to continue to be compassionate and gracious to all those who trust in his Son Jesus. Through the Son of God, you have been made a child and heir of your heavenly Father. Be at peace; the Lord is with you, his love abounds, and your sins are forgiven.

G **Amen.**

M Having heard the sure promise of God’s forgiveness, let us rejoice in thanksgiving:

C Verse 1

♪ **How can I thank you, Lord, For all your loving kindness,
That you have patiently Borne with me in my blindness!
When dead in many sins And trespasses I lay,
I kindled, holy God, Your anger ev’ry day.**

C Verse 6

♪ **Lord, you have raised me up To joy and exultation
And clearly shown the way That leads me to salvation.
My sins are washed away; For this I thank you , Lord.
Now with my heart and soul All evil I abhor.**

(Christian Worship, Hymn #460)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Almighty God and Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every morning. By the work of your Holy Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BE SEATED

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Luther’s Explanation to the First Article

 We believe that God made me and every creature and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

(Our Confession of Faith continues on the next page.)

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, cattle and all I own, and all that I need to keep my body and life, and by defending me against all danger and 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.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Hymn of the Day:

Christian Worship, Hymn # 260

Let All Things Now Living

G Verse 1

♪ **Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanquished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

G Verse 2

♪ **His law he enforces; The stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him 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!"**

Psalm 145

“Show Your Thanks to the King of All Creation”

¹ I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

² Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. ³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. ⁴ One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

⁹ The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. ¹⁰ All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you. ¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, ¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. ¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he 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 in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Dearest Heavenly Father, we thank you for the kindness and mercy you have showered upon us, your beloved children in Christ. You continually feed, clothe, guard, and protect us, and in countless ways amply provide for our physical well-being. The bounties of land and ocean, of forest, farm, and factory, all which we receive from your hand, fill our hearts with gladness.

C **We thank you, kind and gracious God, for your many blessings upon our families.**

M Furthermore, you supply shelter over our heads, and provide us with jobs and incomes and with health and strength to carry on. By the example of your own love for us you have taught us and the members of our families to love and respect one another and to live together in peace and harmony. You give us faith and help us live it.

C **We thank you, kind and gracious God, for your many blessings upon our families.**

M Lord, in your perfect love, you sometimes chasten us, but you also heal. You bring us low but then mercifully raise us up again, helping us to see not only who we are and what we deserve, but also your incredible wisdom to bless us with exactly what we need when we need it.

C **We thank you, kind and gracious God, for your many blessings upon our families.**

(special intercessions offered here with the prayer concluding on the next page.)

M But your choicest blessings, Lord, are those which have secured our everlasting salvation. How gracious you are to forgive the many sins we daily commit, because you sent your Son Jesus to make payment in full for them! How blessed we also are for the many opportunities to receive your holy Word through preaching, teaching, sacrament, and Christian encouragement.

C **We thank you, kind and gracious God, for your many blessings upon our families. Amen.**

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.**

BLESSING

M May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit preserve you in faithfulness, strengthen you in love, and guide you to life's end.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

Now Thank We All Our God

Christian Worship, Hymn # 610

C Verse 1

♪ **Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.**

C Verse 2 ♪ **Oh, may this bounteous God**

**Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
And bless-ed peace to cheer us
And keep us in his grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.**

C Verse 3 ♪ **All praise and thanks to God**

**The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.**

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO...

...To the Organist tonight: Mrs. Charmaine Wagner (and Michaela Bubolz) and our other organists—Judy Mangin and Kristen Hillman—all who use their gifts so faithfully and beautifully throughout the year.

...To our many other musicians and vocalists who share their abilities to enhance our worship services and ministries.

...To our faithful staff (teachers, aides, and office staff) who work so tirelessly year in and year out often sacrificing their time with family to serve their brothers and sisters at St. John-St. James and in the community of Reedsville.

...To the church leaders for their leadership, Christian example, and service throughout the year.

...To our Sunday School teachers and CREW teacher who prepare and teach God's Word as volunteers to the children and teens of our congregation as volunteers.

...To the many others who serve on committees and behind the scenes offering their time and talents to make so many of our ministries happen.

...To the many who offer their gifts and prayers in service and support to our church family and ministries.

...Especially we thank our God for giving us so many blessings and the opportunities to use them in service to his Kingdom. May God bless us in our thanksgiving, our traveling, and our enjoyment of the family, friends, and all the other blessings he has given. To God alone be the glory.