

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



Thanksgiving Service

November 24 & 25, 2021

ST. JOHN—ST. JAMES

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

November 25 & 26, 2021

Thanksgiving Service

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.

C **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 in 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)

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. Be at peace; the Lord is with you, his love abounds, and your sins are forgiven.

C **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 3

♪ **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.

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 100

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. ² Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³ Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

C I 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.

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.

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

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!"**

John 11

“Jesus, We Give You a BIG Thank You”

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

⁴When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

³⁸Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹“Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

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 our other organists—Judy Mangin and Kristen Hillman—and all who use their keyboard gifts to accompany others 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.