

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP | **Wednesday, November 27, 2024** a community celebration of Resurrection and Epiphany Lutheran Churches

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come, let us sing to the Lord.

C: Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

P: Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving.

C: And raise a loud shout to Him with Psalms.

P: In His hands are the caverns of the earth,

C: And the heights of the hills are also His.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Worship the Lord with gladness, come into His presence with singing.

P: Know that the Lord is God;

C: We are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

P: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise.

C: Give thanks to Him and bless His name.

P: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

C: And His faithfulness to all generations.

GATHERING HYMN: Come, You Thankful People, Come......RECLAIM No. 261

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

All: Heavenly Father, our lives are filled with the abundance of your grace and mercy. We thank you for the good things of your creation that fill our lives. May our gratitude be so abundant that it flows into radical generosity that reflects your boundless love for all; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

¹"The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers. ²And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. 4Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. 5Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you. 6So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, 8a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

R: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:6-13

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:25-32

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. 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 which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious 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 arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

SERMON

HYMN: In Christ Alone.....RECLAIM No. 215

OFFERING and OFFERING RESPONSE

As the usher brings forward the offering, please stand to sing:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: For the richness of God's creation and for His grace to sustain what He has made. For the bounty of resources that sustain our daily lives, and for the good fruit of the earth by which we and all creatures are fed and nourished, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For government and order in our land and throughout the world; for those who lead us in this nation and for all leaders of all nations; and for the blessing of justice, the protection of life and the promotion of virtue, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For our life together as God's people in this place; for the Church throughout the world, for missionaries planting new churches, and for our unity in the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For those who suffer illness of body or mind, for those who sorrow at the loss of those they love, for those near death, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For thankful hearts, that we may not forget those in need; for generosity, that we may share from our abundance with those in want, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For our vocations and occupations, for the gift of labor and the privilege of enjoying the fruits of that labor, and for the unemployed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: In faithful remembrance of the saints who went before us, those we will miss around our Thanksgiving tables this year; for grace to rejoice in the mercies the Lord showed to them in their lives, and for the promised day of reunion when the dead in Christ will be raised and we shall join them in everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: In all things, O Lord, grant to us grace not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought, but to honor You above all and to love our neighbors as ourselves. On our own we have nothing that will endure, but You have granted to us all things in Christ and a life that does not end. Hear your people for the sake of and in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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.

THE SENDING DIALOGUE

P: May the Lord of all creation shower His blessings upon you.

C: Amen.

P: May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with His presence and fill you with the peace of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: May the Lord of Salvation guide you all of your days until you come into the joys of his eternal kingdom.

C: Amen.

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night......RECLAIM No. 63

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, loving and serving in the name of our crucified and risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!