



Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 24, 2021

7:00 pm

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ELW 693

CALL TO WORSHIP FOR THANKSGIVING

L: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

C: Make known God's deeds among the peoples!

L: God blesses us with gifts of love:

C: With food and clothing, home and family.

L: God blesses us with daily work:

C: And all we need from day to day.

L: God protects us in time of danger:

C: And guards us from every evil.

L: God calls us into relationship with him;

C: And forms us into one holy people, the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.

L: Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C: O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Learner Bells

PROCLAMATION OF THE DAY

L: In the first year of the presidency of George Washington in 1789, a Day of National Thanksgiving was set aside for the last Thursday of November. Since that time, Americans have celebrated this day of remembrance of all the blessings which God has poured down upon this nation and her citizens.

In the presidential proclamation for Thanksgiving Day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had this to say:

“It is the duty of nations as well as of citizens to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord....

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving race, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

“It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY: LUTHER’S MEANING TO THE FOURTH PETITION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray, O God,

C: O God, you give daily bread to all people, though sinful, even without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that you will help us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanks. Since our daily bread includes everything needed for this life, we thank you for such things as food and clothing, home and property, work and income, a devoted family, an orderly community, good government, favorable weather, peace and health, a good name, and true friends and neighbors. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-9

SERMON

“Got Stress?”

Pastor Dave Mesaros

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

ELW 694

OFFERING

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

C: O God, who desires good for all creatures, satisfy our hunger not just for food, but for freedom, truth, justice and love.

O Risen Christ, you revealed yourself to us as one who gives to the poor and cares for all people. We dedicate our lives and our offerings to your service.

O Holy Spirit, bless these gifts and abide in our hearts so that our gifts and our actions may live out our faith, glorify God, and bring forth a fruitful harvest for the kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMN

“America the Beautiful”

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain:
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.
- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life:
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and ev'ry gain divine.
- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears:
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

LITANY FOR THANKSGIVING

L: As the pioneers of the Plymouth colony gathered around the feasting table with native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for all that they had been given by our Bountiful Provider so we too gather on this Eve of Thanksgiving to offer thanks for all those gifts which the Lord has seen fit to give us, especially for our country, our state and our town. Almighty and Generous God, we bring before you, in our hearts and on our Thanksgiving table, the gifts and blessings which you have given us this year. And, in humble gratitude, we give you thanks for them. We thank you as well for the blessings which come to us through the peace and prosperity of our nation our state and our town.

C: We praise you, and we thank you, O God.

L: We acknowledge that as we have greatly received, so are we responsible. Therefore, O Lord, keep us from being unfaithful in our lives as citizens of this nation and as recipients of all that past generations of Americans have bequeathed to us. Help us to be worthy of our ancestors and of their God.

C: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L: To all the high desires of the pioneers and prophets,

C: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L: To their belief in the possibilities of a common people:

C: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L: To their passion for freedom and their readiness to die in its defense:

C: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L: To their scorn of tyranny, and their trust in men and women to rule themselves:

C: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L: To their vision of a human commonwealth in which the people of many lands may share:

C: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L: To their release from the prejudice of an old world and their will to build a new one:

C: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

L: As our ancestors trusted in you, O Lord, and you delivered them:

C: Keep us ever close to you.

L: Lord of the nations, guide our people by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give us what outward prosperity may be your will, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.