



Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 23, 2022

7:00 pm

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE PRELUDE

OPENING SCRIPTURE: DEUTERONOMY 8:7-18

Elaine Hause

⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in 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 where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. ¹¹Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

The Gathering Hymn

"Now Thank We All Our God"

ELW 840

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (*The Prayer of Thanksgiving* [excerpt] by Howard Thurman, 1899-1981)

L Today, I make my Sacrament of Thanksgiving.

A I begin with the simple things of my days: Fresh air to breathe, Cool water to drink, the taste of food, the protection of houses and clothes, the comforts of home. For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 107:1-9

Ellen Marty

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; ⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; ⁷he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. ⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. ⁹For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

I

THE WORDS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GOOD EARTH
(food, water, trees, air, beach, meadows, mountains)

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 1:29-31

Phil Barker

²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

THE HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879

THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun,

A For the salt sea and the running water,

L For the everlasting hills

A And the never-resting winds,

L For trees and the common grass underfoot.

A We thank you for our senses

L By which we hear the songs of birds,

A And see the splendor of the summer fields,

L And taste of the autumn fruits,

A And rejoice in the feel of the snow,

L And smell the breath of the spring.

A Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty,

L And save our souls from being so blind

A That we pass unseeing

L When even the common thorn bush

A Is aflame with your glory,

L O God our creator,
A Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

II

THE WORDS OF THANKSGIVING FOR CITIZENSHIP & FREEDOM (country, democracy, peace, international neighbors)

SCRIPTURE: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

Elaine Hause

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

THE HYMN

"This Is My Song"

ELW 887

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (adapted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*)

Almighty God, we share this land that you have provided. With grateful hearts, make us always remember and constantly do your will. Bless our nation with honest industry, truthful education and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Learner Bells

III

THE WORDS OF THANKSGIVING FOR DAILY LIFE (work, service organizations, schools, etc.)

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 23:6

Ellen Marty

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

THE HYMN

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

ELW 679

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (adapted from *A Thanksgiving Blessing* by Naomi King)

L Let us join our hands and hearts in gratitude on this wondrous day, where we have the abundance of our lives before us.

A We remember on this day of bounty all of those who do not have enough, who are afraid, who are lonely, and who suffer. We wish for the abundance of this world to be shared, for fear to become love, for the lonely to feel welcomed, and for the suffering to know rest and joy. For labors, the love, the care that gave us the delights of this and every day, we say “Thanks!” For the nourishment of our spirit, the challenges that strengthen us, and the friends we have on the journey, we sing “Thanks!” For all that is our lives, for these good gifts, we whisper, “Thanks!” Overflowing with gratitude, let us shout, “Thanks!” Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Let Us Give Thanks”

Chancel Choir

IV

THE WORDS OF THANKSGIVING FOR GIFTS OF FAITH

(faith, hope, love, joy)

SCRIPTURE: COLOSSIANS 3:16

Phil Barker

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

THE HYMN

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

ELW 678

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(adapted from “Praying Inclusively” by Madeleine L’Engle)

L God be in my thoughts

A And in my heart.

L In my left hand

A And in my right.

L Atone me. Atone me with you and your love.

A Help me to pray for those I fear as well as those I love, knowing that you can take my most ungracious prayers and give them grace.

V

THE WORDS OF THANKSGIVING FOR RELATIONSHIPS

(family, friends, diversity, new acquaintances)

SCRIPTURE: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:3

Elaine Hause

³We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(adapted from “Prayer” by Maya Angelou)

L Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days.

A For then we have you to lean upon.

L Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days,

A for then we can share that which we have with those who have less.

L And thank you for your presence during the Holy Days,

A for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends.

L For those who have no voice,

A we ask you to speak.

L For those who feel unworthy,

A we ask you to pour your love out in waterfalls of tenderness.

L For those who live in pain,

A we ask you to bathe them in the river of your healing.

L For those who are lonely,

A we ask you to keep them company.

L For those who are depressed,

A we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope.

L Dear Creator,

A You, the borderless sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most—Peace. Amen.

Brief Moment of Silence for Reflection

THE PRAYER OF SENDING

L Generous God, for the abundance of your blessings to us, day by day and year by year,

A we give you our thanks. For the simple pleasures of life: for garden harvests, coffee conversation, and familiar surroundings, for health and strength to appreciate the wonder of life, for needs met and desires fulfilled, we give you our thanks. For food to nourish body and spirit, for homes which supply shelter, which nurture order and beauty, and offer hospitality, we give you our thanks. With gifts of money which reach farther than we can manage ourselves, with deeds done in service of neighbor and stranger, with family and friends distant and nearby, we worship you, God, with grateful hearts and joyful spirit. Alleluia. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-9

Ellen Marty

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE POSTLUDE***Welcome Guests & Visitors!***

We hope you found the worship service meaningful. If you or someone you know would like information about Salem; program offerings, perhaps looking for a church home or some other need: Please contact the church office (651-457-6661) or Diane Hueller (651-451-0307)



Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall following the service for our yearly Pie Social! Thank you to everyone who baked and bought pies for the event. We appreciate you!

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT SALEM!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 - 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

You're invited to a time of fellowship (treats & beverages provided!) and craft making! Bring your family and friends and make decorations you can use at home this Christmas season!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 4:30 PM

You're invited to attend this wonderful music-filled service with friends and family members in an evening of celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - 9:30 AM

Join us as we continue celebrating the GREATEST GIFT GIVEN TO ALL OF US!

Salem Lutheran Church
11 W. Bernard Street
West St. Paul, MN 55118
651-457-6661
www.salemluth.org