



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"
November 22, 2023~Thanksgiving Eve

THANKSGIVING EVE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “From Giving Thanks to Being Generous”

AS WE GATHER: On this day of national Thanksgiving, God invites us on a journey of giving thanks. Amidst the busyness of our daily lives, there are times when we are like the nine, who, healed as they were, simply did not return and give thanks to Jesus. The despised Samaritan, an outsider entirely, serves to remind us that real gratitude often comes from some of the least likely people. Most of all, Luke 17 reminds us of the Good News—God telling us that we are indeed broken but that He promises to continue being His good and gracious self. God’s generosity to us knows no bounds. Thanks be to God!

PRELUDE

**“Enter His Courts With Praise”
Ascension Lutheran Choir**

WELCOME

HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30, 33*

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
C **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

P Let Israel say,
C **“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

P Let the house of Aaron say,
C **“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

P Let those who fear the LORD say,
C **“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P With abundant generosity, God created the universe, the earth, all creatures, and each of us. He daily blesses and sustains us and all creation. Yet by our sin, God’s good creation is broken. So let us confess our sin and hear again God’s re-creating word of forgiveness.

C **We confess to You, O Lord, that we are naturally inclined to sin and self-centeredness. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. In addition to the wrong things we have done, we have also left many good things undone. And like the nine lepers, we fail to thank You as we should.**

P Take heart! Jesus has come to forgive your sins and He will one day return and make all creation new. With joy, I, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus, declare to you His forgiveness. By the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever! Alleluia!**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, our Creator, Your generosity exceeds our imaginations.

C **Fill us with thankfulness for Your divine goodness and mercy, so that our hearts overflow with generosity in our homes, churches, and communities;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 8:1–10 (ESV)

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,

⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a 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. ¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:6–13 (ESV)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, 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. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ I 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. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 17:11–19 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”

¹⁴When He saw them He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹And He said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “We Praise You, O God”

- 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.

- 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 struggles we win.

- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

**SERMON
“THE RIGHT DIRECTION”**

**Luke 17:11–19
Pr. Jim Sprengle**

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made;

Who for us and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually. All offerings for tonight will go to the Outreach Board unless otherwise noted on your offering.)

**“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”
Ascension Choir**

RECEPTION OF SNOWCAP OFFERING

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now, let the weak say, “I am strong.”
Let the poor say, “I am rich”
Because of what The Lord has done for us.
And now, let the weak say, “I am strong.”
Let the poor say, “I am rich”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks. Give thanks.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Filled with gratitude for all of God's mercy and provision, let us pray for the Church, for our nation, for our local community, and for our own needs, filled with thanksgiving that Jesus has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. For the Church throughout the world,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For the pastors, teachers, and all church workers of our Synod,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For missionaries far away and in difficult circumstances in our own nation,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For the elected leaders of our nation, state, and local community,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For doctors and nurses, fire fighters and police officers, construction and restaurant workers, teachers and counselors, and everyone else who contributes to the well-being of our community,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For Your presence with those who are sick, dying, or mourning,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For the people in our lives who love us and those we are called to love—families, friends, co-workers, and neighbors,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For safe travel for those gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving Day,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For the ongoing generosity of this congregation, which provides Word and Sacrament ministry, Christ-centered community, and service to our neighbors,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P For the life and witness of those who have gone before us in faith and now rest from their labors eternally in the arms of Jesus,

C **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

P We entrust our prayers to You, gracious Father, who with Your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit reign forever as God of all.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach 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.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

“Now Thank We All Our God”

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 mothers' arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed 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!



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.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
G **Thanks be to God!**

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Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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