

## SERVICE OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Eve of the National Day of Thanksgiving

November 26, 2025

7:00 pm



Welcome! Paul the apostle's words in the Epistle lesson for Thanksgiving remind us: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in

Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). May it be so with each one of us! As part of tonight's worship, we will bring to the altar the Thanksgiving bags that have been filled with food items for those in need in our community. This act of worship moves our thanksgiving to "thanksgiving" as we touch the lives of others with compassion and care. We invite you to join your heart and voice in singing praises to our Lord, the giver of all good things.



### Prayer Before Worship

*Gracious Father, when you open your hand you satisfy the desire of every living thing. You have given us countless blessings which we have neither earned nor deserved. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, open our hearts and minds to the needs of others around us so that we may share with them the blessings that we have received. With thankful hearts, let us show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but also with our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Pre-service Music

"We Gather Together"(Beatrice Hatton Fisk)

## Welcome and Greeting

## Gathering Hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (LSB 892)



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un-to His praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har-vest home,  
4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come To Thy fi-nal har-vest home;



All be safe-ly gath-ered in Ere the win-ter storms be-gin;  
Wheat and tares to-geth-er sown, Un-to joy or sor-row grown.  
From His field shall in that day All of-fens-es purge a-way,  
Gath-er Thou Thy peo-ple in, Free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide For our wants to be sup-plied.  
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap-pear.  
Give His an-gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,  
There, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, In Thy gar-ner to a-bide:



Come to God's own tem-ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.  
Lord of har-vest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.  
But the fruit-ful ears to store In His gar-ner ev-er-more.  
Come with all Thine an-gels, come, Raise the glo-rious har-vest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-71, alt.  
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Opening Dialogue

*(selected verses from Psalm 107)*

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
- C** **And his steadfast love endures forever.**
- L** Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim that he has saved them from trouble,

**C** And gathered them from east and west, from north and south.

**L** Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for the wonders that he does for his people.

**C** Let them proclaim his greatness in the congregation, and praise him in the assembly of the people.

**L** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**C** And his steadfast love endures forever.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray:

Almighty God, your goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness and give thanks for your benefits, serving you in willing obedience and our neighbor in loving kindness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### **First Reading**

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

<sup>[1]</sup> "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. <sup>[2]</sup> And 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. <sup>[3]</sup> And 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. <sup>[4]</sup> Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. <sup>[5]</sup> Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. <sup>[6]</sup> So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>[7]</sup> For 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, <sup>[8]</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>[9]</sup> 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. <sup>[10]</sup> And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody** (*read responsively*)

Psalm 67

**L** May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, *[Selah]*

**C** **that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**

**L** Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!

**C** **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth. [Selah]**

**L** Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!

**C** **The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, shall bless us.**

**L** God shall bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

**Second Reading**

Philippians 4:6-20

<sup>[6]</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>[7]</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>[8]</sup> 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. <sup>[9]</sup> What you have

learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. <sup>[10]</sup> 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. <sup>[11]</sup> Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>[12]</sup> 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. <sup>[13]</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me. <sup>[14]</sup> Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. <sup>[15]</sup> And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. <sup>[16]</sup> Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. <sup>[17]</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. <sup>[18]</sup> I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>[19]</sup> And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>[20]</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☐ **Thanks be to God.**

### **Choir Anthem**

“A Thanksgiving Garden” (Joseph M. Martin)

*O Lord, we come to thank You for all the works You've done,  
for sowing love within us, for sending us Your Son.  
We thank you for the garden You plant within the soul,  
and the fruit your vines have yielded is more than we can hold.  
Thank you Lord, for the harvest You have given,  
Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you bestow;  
for the peace and joy You give, for all the love You show,  
for making our garden grow.  
You rain on us Your goodness, You shower us with love,  
and all the things for living You send from heaven above.  
You nurture seeds of kindness, You tend our hearts with care.  
You are the great provider, Your praise we now declare.*

*Thank You, Lord, for the harvest You have given.  
Thank You, Lord, for the blessings You bestow;  
for the peace and joy You give, for all the love You show,  
for making our garden grow.*

## **Holy Gospel**

Luke 17:11-19

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

### **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>[11]</sup> On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>[12]</sup> And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>[13]</sup> and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." <sup>[14]</sup> When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>[15]</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>[16]</sup> and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. <sup>[17]</sup> Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>[18]</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>[19]</sup> And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

### **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Homily**

"Eat, Be Full, and Bless"

## **Hymn of Thanksgiving**

"We Praise You, O God" (LSB 785)

*During the singing of the Hymn of Thanksgiving, you are invited to come forward at the direction of the ushers and place your Thanksgiving bag at the altar. These collected food items will benefit the work of local service agencies. When all the bags have been brought forward, the following prayer is offered:*

*(Hymn, next page)*



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
 2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;  
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
 Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.  
 And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;  
 When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,  
 With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.  
 And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
 To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882-1963, alt.  
 Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626, Haarlem  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of Consecration

**P** Let us pray:

Almighty and merciful God, we call to mind before you all those whom it would be easy to forget: the poor and the homeless, the hungry and the sick, the unemployed, the elderly and the alienated, and all those with special needs. As you have lovingly reached out to us with grace and mercy, help us to reach out to them with compassion and love. Bless these offerings of food which we have brought to your altar that these gifts might help those who are in need. We ask this in the name of him who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

- P** With thankfulness to God for His abundant blessings, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. Each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy." Please respond by saying "Hear our prayer."*

*The prayers end with the words:*

- P** Receive these our prayers, O God, and give us all we need for this day and the days to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## 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

- 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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

**C** Amen.

## Dismissal

- L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Sending Hymn

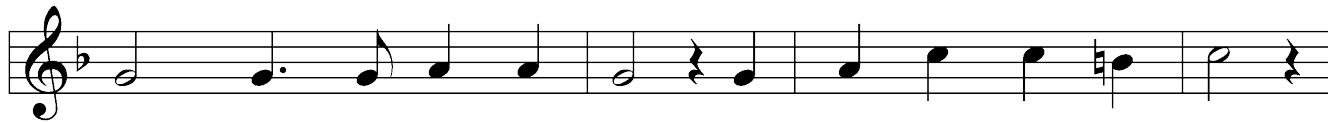
"Now Thank We All Our God" (LSB 895)



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,



Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,



Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;



With countless gifts of love And still is ours to-day.  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

"Old Hundred" (Michael Burkhardt)

### Ministry of Worship:

Officiant	Pastor John Meehan
Lay Assistant	Steve Rempe
Guest Organist/Pianist	Lois Lehrer
Ushers	Andrea Godwin Joseph Godwin
AV Team	Mark Gilbertson Jurgen Gobien



## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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*Old Hundredth* - Michael Burkhart ("Old Hundredth" Louis Bourgeois; 1997 MorningStar Music Publisher) All rights reserved.

## **Advent and Christmas Celebration Schedule**

### **Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday in Advent**

9:15 a.m. Cross-generational Advent Wreath-Making Event

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Holy Communion)

### **Wednesday, December 3**

12 Noon Midweek Advent Worship (Holy Communion)

### **Friday, December 5**

6:00 p.m. Women's Christmas Dinner

### **Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday in Advent**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Holy Communion) , Fellowship Gathering

### **Wednesday, December 10**

12 Noon Midweek Advent Worship (Holy Communion)

**Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday in Advent**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Holy Communion)

**Wednesday, December 17**

12 Noon Midweek Advent Worship (Holy Communion)

**Thursday, December 18**

4:00 pm ECEC Christmas Family Chapel

**Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent**

10:30 a.m. Congregational Christmas Program (No Holy Communion)

12:00 p.m. SJLC Teen Christmas Party

**Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Service (No Holy Communion) –  
No Livestreaming

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship (Holy Communion)

**Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day**

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service (Holy Communion)

**Sunday, December 28 - First Sunday after Christmas**

10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols for Christmas (No Holy Communion)

\*No Bible Class

\*No Children's Ministry

**Wednesday - December 31 – New Year's Eve**

5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve (Holy Communion)

**Sunday, January 4 - Epiphany of Our Lord**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Holy Communion)



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**5952 Franconia Road**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310**



*A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

**St. John's Lutheran Church Staff**

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Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office/Facilities Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

**Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff**

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
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