

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Service of Thanks Living
November 19, 2017



Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Sandra Dickens, Lay Reader

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Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: "You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty." We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God's creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom. **Amen.**

One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

O God, our merciful redeemer, we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.

We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for + his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God. **Amen.**

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG (ELW p. 858) Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

THANKSLIVING LITANY

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, O God of plenteous grace, for the waters you provide for the earth:

for snow and dew, for oceans and wells,
for the rain that nourishes plants and trees,
for the streams that enliven the animals, great and small,
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

Blessing and glory be to you, O God of abundant mercy,
for your word that flows with life-giving waters:
for the story of the fountain that gushed from the rock,
for the memory of the Jordan that immersed your Son in our sorrows, for the living rivers
that flows from the cross,
for the reconciling waters of baptism around which we gather.
We bless you, O God, for water and the word.

We bless you, O God, for water and the word.

Pour upon us yet again the Spirit of our baptism.
Our roots are dry: shower us with divine blessing.
Our fruits need moisture: renew us for vibrant growth. Wash away the sin within us,
and drown the evil around us.
We beg you, O God, for water and the Spirit.

We beg you, O God, for water and the Spirit.

You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are the Water we crave;
you, O God, are Rain and River and Fountain, life for us all, now and forever.

Amen.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Dios Todopoderoso nuestro padre, tu bondad generosa viene a nosotros nuevo cada día. Por el trabajo de su espíritu nos llevan a reconocer su bondad, dar gracias por sus beneficios, y servirle en la obediencia dispuesta, a través de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor. Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Times of abundance tempt us to forget the Lord and rely on our own power and resources. But the Lord is the one who took Israel out of Egypt, led and fed them in the wilderness, brought them into the land, and gave them power to be productive. To thank this God is to remember and proclaim God's deeds.

So it's paramount that you keep the commandments of God, your God, walk down the roads he shows you and reverently respect him. God is about to bring you into a good land, a land with brooks and rivers, springs and lakes, streams out of the hills and through the valleys. It's a land of wheat and barley, of vines and figs and pomegranates, of olives, oil, and honey. It's land where you'll never go hungry—always food on the table and a roof over your head. It's a land where you'll get iron out of rocks and mine copper from the hills.

After a meal, satisfied, bless God, your God, for the good land he has given you.

Make sure you don't forget God, your God, by not keeping his commandments, his rules and regulations that I command you today. Make sure that when you eat and are satisfied, build pleasant houses and settle in, see your herds and flocks flourish and more and more money come in, watch your standard of living going up and up—make sure you don't become so full of yourself and your things that you forget God, your God,

the God who delivered you from Egyptian slavery;

the God who led you through that huge and fearsome wilderness,

those desolate, arid badlands crawling with fiery snakes and scorpions;

the God who gave you water gushing from hard rock;

the God who gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never heard of, in order to give you a taste of the hard life, to test you so that you would be prepared to live well in the days ahead of you.

If you start thinking to yourselves, "I did all this. And all by myself. I'm rich. It's all mine!"—well, think again. Remember that God, your God, gave you the strength to produce all this wealth so as to confirm the covenant that he promised to your ancestors—as it is today.

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: 65

R Oh, visit the earth, ask her to join the dance!

Silence is praise to you,
Zion-dwelling God,
And also obedience.

You hear the prayer in it all.
We all arrive at your doorstep sooner
or later, loaded with guilt,
Our sins too much for us—
but you get rid of them once and for all.

**Blessed are the chosen! Blessed the guest
at home in your place! R**

We expect our fill of good things
in your house, your heavenly manse.

All your salvation wonders
are on display in your trophy room.

Earth-Tamer, Ocean-Pourer,
Mountain-Maker, Hill-Dresser,
Muzzler of sea storm and wave crash,
of mobs in noisy riot—

**Far and wide they'll come to a stop,
they'll stare in awe, in wonder.**

**Dawn and dusk take turns
calling, "Come and worship." R**

Oh, visit the earth,
ask her to join the dance!
Deck her out in spring showers,
fill the God-River with living water.
Paint the wheat fields golden.

Creation was made for this!

**Drench the plowed fields,
soak the dirt clods**

**With rainfall as harrow and rake
bring her to blossom and fruit. R**

Snow-crown the peaks with splendor,
scatter rose petals down your paths,
All through the wild meadows, rose petals.

Set the hills to dancing,
Dress the canyon walls with live sheep,
a drape of flax across the valleys.

**Let them shout, and shout, and shout!
Oh, oh, let them sing! R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Christian fellowship involves sharing with those in need. Here Paul is gathering a collection for the church in Jerusalem from all the Gentile churches he helped found. We can be extravagant in our giving because God is extravagant, not stingy, in providing for our lives.

Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it,
 He throws caution to the winds,
 giving to the needy in reckless abandon.
 His right-living, right-giving ways
 never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ. You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone. Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives, they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!

Word of God, word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: Luke 17:11-19

Glory to you, O Lord.

A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.

It happened that as he made his way toward Jerusalem, he crossed over the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men, all lepers, met him. They kept their distance but raised their voices, calling out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Taking a good look at them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

They went, and while still on their way, became clean. One of them, when he realized that he was healed, turned around and came back, shouting his gratitude, glorifying God. He kneeled at Jesus' feet, so grateful. He couldn't thank him enough—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Jesus said, "Were not ten healed? Where are the nine? Can none be found to come back and give glory to God except this outsider?" Then he said to him, "Get up. On your way. Your faith has healed and saved you."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Rev. Arden Dorn

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 826)

Thine the Amen

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

Holy God, you invite us to share abundantly in every good work. As congregations join together in worship, make us bold in our generosity so that all may be fed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this celebration of ThanksLiving, we praise you as we rejoice in your crowning the year with your goodness in creation. Supply seed to the sower, bread for food, and a shared harvest for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lift up First Nations, native peoples, and indigenous tribes who live in many places all across the world. Support those who teach and preserve our many cultures that they may be understood as reflections of your diverse creation. **hear our prayer.**

Put an end to poverty, homelessness, and hunger. Fill our tables with healthy food. We pray for those who are lonely, stressed, and sick, especially Lorain, Pauline, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Linda, Jack, Lorene, Steve, Evalena, Francis, Carol, Ella, Linda, Charles, Eli, Beth, Steve, Hope, Tom, Jackie, Yvonne, Lawrence, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open our hearts to be cheerful givers, sharing abundantly in your good work. Teach us to give thanks to you for every blessing and work of healing in our lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort all who grieve with the assurance of hope that all who have died will be raised with Christ. We remember and honor those whose witness of the faith echoes beyond the grave. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with individuals and families throughout this week of Thanksgiving. Keep travelers safe, workers cheerful, neighbors friendly, and families open and loving. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace is shared among the assembly, and then the assembly is seated.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with
these gifts: our selves, our time, and our
possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love, through the
one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Selig bist du, o Gott, Schöpfer aller Dinge.
Durch ihre Güte Sie haben uns diese Gaben:
unser Selbst, unsere Zeit und unseren Besitz
gesegnet. Nutzen Sie uns, und was wir haben,
in der Fütterung die Welt mit ihrer Liebe, durch
den, der sich für uns hingegeben hat, Jesus
Christus, unseren Retter und Herrn. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

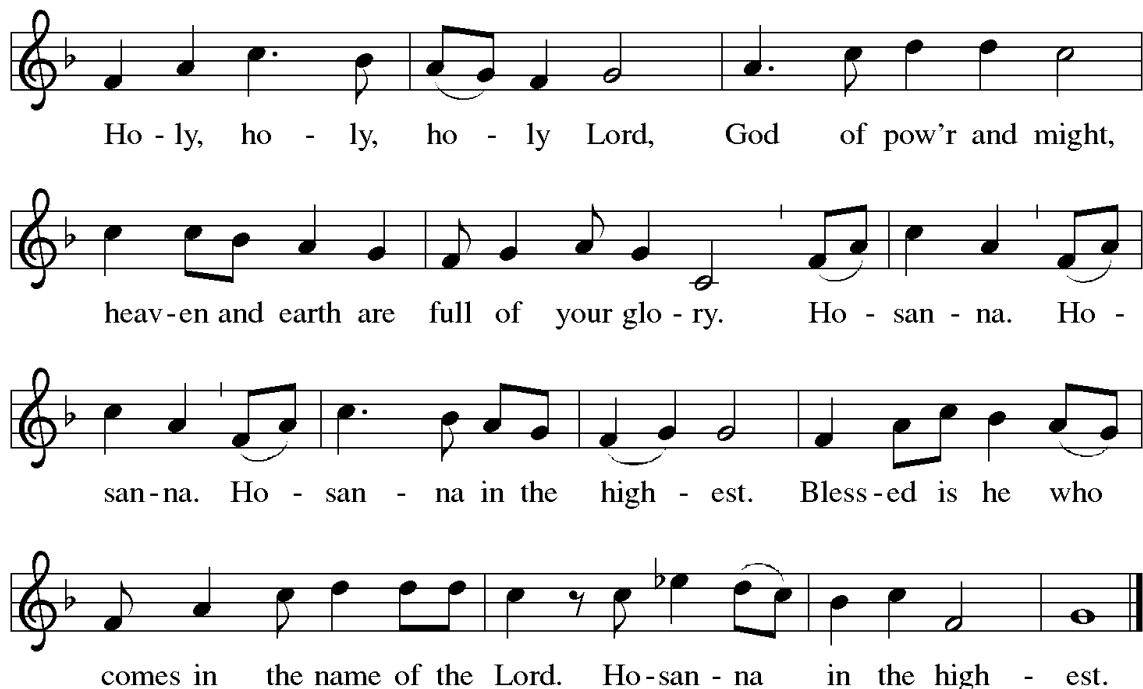
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: *(The assembly joins hands to pray)*

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Hunger no more. Thirst no more. Come to the banquet of life.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 881) *Let All Things Now Living*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884) *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

A Nursery is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill or Injured

Lorain Chandler, Pauline Davidson, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Ann Gary, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Lorene Janek, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Carol May Liberty, Ella Manka, Linda Peterek, Charles Pierce, Eli Rios, Steve Scotten, Hope Segura, Tom Shockome, Jackie Tiemann, Yvonne Watkins, Lawrence Waltersdorf, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow.

For those in the military

Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

Anniversary

Arthur & Patsy Yanta (Nov. 25)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 25, 3:30 p.m.

The congregation is invited to the wedding of Jordan Buehring and Melissa Lopez at St. Paul's with a reception following at Cestahowa Hall.

Sunday, November 26, Immediately following Worship

We will be decorating the church for the Christmas Season
Lunch will be provided.

Sunday, December 3, 3:00 p.m. – Faith Lutheran, Beeville

40th Annual Advent Music Festival

Saturday, December 9, 6:00 p.m. - Karnes City Founder's Day Parade

A trailer has been offered for a float in the parade. Volunteers are needed to coordinate a decoration theme for the float, decorate the float on the afternoon of December 9, and ride on the float in the evening Parade. Everyone wanting to participate, contact Ronnie Retzloff or Pastor Dorn.

Sunday, December 17, 10:30 a.m. – St. Paul's Multi-Generational Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. – Faith Lutheran, Beeville

One Magic Night (Live Nativity)

