St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
ThanksLiving
Global Church Worship Service
November 18, 2018

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister
Shelley Gibbens, Lay Reader
Rita Jordan, Organist

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

INTRODUCTION
Today’s readings reflect two of the strains that go into the celebration of a national day of thanksgiving: gratitude for abundant harvest (Joel) and civic prayer for a peaceable common life (1 Timothy). The core meaning of Thanksgiving for many of us—a home feast for extended family and friends—is not reflected in the readings; but it is reflected weekly in the church’s meal of thanksgiving (eucharist). What we wish for both these thanksgiving meals is that they will go deeper than celebration of one another and our own blessings, to recognize in our true Host one who wants everyone brought to the table.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN (ELW p.513) Listen, God is Calling

CALL TO WORSHIP
God has been gracious to us, God has blessed us,
God has made his face to shine upon us.
God reveals his way to all peoples,
God guides all the nations on the earth.
God judges everyone with equity.
God shows his saving power everywhere.
Let all the nations praise you, O God!
Let us, your people, praise you!

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.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
The assembly shall kneel or stand, as they are able.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have been the faithful sower, scattering seeds of God’s love and grace in our lives. Yet we confess that our hearts have often been like hard soil, or shallow soil, or thorny soil, stunting the seed and failing to bear fruit. We also confess that we often have neglected our task of sowing the good news of your Kingdom, and of leavening the lives of others with your love. Forgive us, and renew us, so that we might grow more in our faith and bear the fruit of your mercy, of your love, of your undying life. 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.
KYRIE

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav’n a-bove;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Heavenly Father: We thank You for food and remember the hungry. We thank You for health and remember the sick. We thank You for friends and remember the friendless. We thank You for freedom and remember the enslaved. May these remembrances stir us to service that these gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

The assembly is seated

Oremos. Padre celestial: te agradecemos por la comida y recordamos a los hambrientos. Le agradecemos por su salud y recordamos a los enfermos les agradecemos por sus amigos y recordamos a los inamistosos. te agradecemos por la libertad y recordamos a los esclavizados. Que estos recuerdos nos conmuevan al servicio de que estos dones para nosotros puedan ser usados para otros. Amén.

Word

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

FIRST READING: Joel 2:21-27

The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God’s judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today’s reading points beyond the judgment to a time when the Lord will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.

21 Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!
22 Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
23 O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.
24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
25 I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.
26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 126

R: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

1When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
2Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” R
3The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
4Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negeb.
5Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
6Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers (who were pagans rather than Christians). We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.

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. 3This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, 6who gave himself a ransom for all—who this was attested at the right time. 7For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.
Glory to You, O Lord!

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.

[Jesus said,] 25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 680) We Plow the Fields and Scatter

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

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

The assembly shall kneel, as they are able

God of grace and glory, you provide teachers and heralds to proclaim your gospel throughout the world. We give you thanks for the church and its leaders, that through their work we can rejoice in your goodness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You brought forth creation and filled it with plants and animals, seas and skies. We give you thanks for fruit-bearing trees, abundant harvests, rain, soil, birds, lilies, and everything you provide. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You desire that all shall have a peaceable life. We give you thanks for civil servants and volunteers, political and social leaders, and all people in authority, and we pray that they work for justice. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you send to witness in word and deed among the nations. Bless Andrew Steele and Rahel Mwitula Williams in the work you have called them to do, so that they may faithfully accompany those among whom they are sent, show your love to all people, and glorify your name. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You count all humankind worthy of care. We give you thanks for those who work in medical professions, that through their skill you provide healing, consolation, and well-being. Today we pray especially for Ellvera, Laura, Bobby & Betty, Laquita, Helen, Andy, Mary Louise, Francis, Marie, Barbara, Leroy, John, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You ground our lives in the love of Christ. We give you thanks that you protect travelers and those absent from worship, and reveal yourself to us in our holiday celebrations. Reveal yourself also to those who spend this holiday alone. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You promise us life in your kingdom through the resurrection of Christ. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us and continue to inspire us in our lives of faith. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those impacted by wildfires, shootings, oppression, discrimination, bigotry and bias. Protect them, and grant them peace. Fill all humankind with compassion and empower each of us to work for the good of all. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. We pray for St. Paul’s – Karnes City and St. Paul’s – Nordheim as the congregations continue discussions of the St. Paul’s Squared opportunity. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With all churches in the Southwestern Texas Synod we pray for each other and also for ELCA member congregations such as those in the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod, Mision Luterana Agua Viva Church in Laredo, and Lutheran Campus Ministry in San Antonio. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, that we commend to you this day, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you

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.

OFFERING HYMN (ELW p. 692) We Are An Offering

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:
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.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Amen, amen, amen.
THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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.

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;

you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sending

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

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. 839)  Now Thank We All Our God

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY  (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
For Prayerful Consideration

**Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling:** Sadat Abrihim, David Anaba, Sharon Baumann, Ellvera Boehm, Laura Burney, Bobby & Betty Busselman, Alex Caballero, James Castillo, Darla Chandler, Mitch Dorn, Linus Drees, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Andy James, Michael Janysek, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Marie King, Barbara Kopplin, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Moma Ndeh, the Ndeh family, Charles Pierce, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, Hope Segura, Jason Segura, John Tackitt, Yvonne Watkins, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

**For those in the military:** Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

**Anniversary:**
Arthur & Patsy Yanta (Nov. 25)

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

Coming Events

Let’s join together and PARTICIPATE!

**Next Sunday, November 25, immediately after the Worship Service** we will decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We hope everyone will stay and help...**Many hands make light the work.**

**TLU Christmas Vespers** Titled “Night Of Nights,” the 2018 Vespers service of word and music will feature the TLU Choir, TLU Women’s Choir, Kantorei Chamber Choir, and the TLU Symphonic Winds and Percussion. Christmas Vespers will be held in TLU's Jackson Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1; and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. Tickets for each Vespers service are free but required. For more information call 830-372-8063 or email vespers@tlu.edu
The Music Academy Winter Recital will be December 9 at 3 PM at St. Paul’s. The recital is open to the public. Invite your friends!

Synod Assembly 2019 - May 31-June 2, 2019
2019 Synod Assembly will be held at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel. The Synod office has negotiated a discounted room rate of $127 per room per night and Synod Assembly registration will begin at an estimated $180. Offerings this Assembly will go toward the Tiemann Endowment Fund for Leadership Development.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28
LET’S DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
THERE’S BIG STUFF TO DO, AND LITTLE STUFF, TOO! SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!
Global Church ThanksLiving Worship Service & Lunch

Today we welcome Andrew Steele and Rahel Mwitula Williams from ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. Join us for a catered Turkey & Dressing lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

Andrew Steele has served as the Director for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship since April of 2015. In this capacity, Andrew oversees the advancement efforts for ELCA Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, Global Ministry projects, and the International Women Leaders initiative. These ministries make up $33 million of the $198 million goal as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA.

He joined the ELCA in 2013 as the Manager of Donor Relations for Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA after serving as a Senior Major Gifts Officer for United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. Prior to joining United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, Andrew spent a year volunteering in Bloemfontein, South Africa, as an ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer. He is also founder of BLOOD Africa, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization working to strengthen communities and empower orphans in Lesotho, Africa. He leads annual cultural immersion trips to Lesotho and South Africa. Andrew graduated from Wittenberg University, (one of the ELCA’s 26 affiliated colleges and universities,) with a degree in Sociology. He now serves on the University’s Alumni Association Board as well as the Board of Directors for Wheat Ridge Ministries, United Way North-Northwest, and Friends of Lesotho.

Rahel Mwitula Williams is ELCA Manager of Donor Relations with ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. In this role, she seeks to develop and deepen relationships with ELCA Lutherans, to participate the church’s call to service and create lasting impact through ELCA Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, Global Ministry projects, and the International Women Leaders initiative.

Born and raised in Tanzania, East Africa, Rahel migrated to the United States with her family when she was 12 years old. She obtained her a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Loyola University and her a Master of Science degree in International Public Service from DePaul University. She is a founder of ILAVA: It Can Be Done- An African Inspired Lifestyle Boutique which serves as a way to help women entrepreneurs in Kenya and Tanzania gain economic security, and ILAVA Gives Back 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that empower and provide academic, economic and social resources to women and children in targeted African’s countries. She serves as an Executive Board Officer for the BIGG Hearted Foundation, an organization that provides scholarships and education programs to Chicago land area students. She is a member of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Chicago.