

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

November 22nd, 2023

7:00 pm Service

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Introduction for the Day: 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.

Landing at Plymouth Rock in late 1620, the Pilgrims faced a devastating winter. Less than 50 of the original 110 who had sailed on the Mayflower survived. That they did was partly thanks to the Native Americans who befriended them. The following autumn brought a bountiful harvest, which the remaining colonists celebrated with 91 Indians in a feast of thanksgiving that lasted three days. It is unlikely that the first Thanksgiving featured our favorites such as turkey or pumpkin pie. There was no flour, butter, milk, or cider; potatoes were still considered poisonous by many. However, it did include venison, fish, lobster, clams, watercress, berries, dried fruit, and plums. George Washington declared a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789. But not until 1863 did President Lincoln proclaim an annual Thanksgiving Day thanks to Sarah Josepha Hale, who had campaigned for the holiday for 40 years. In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt established the fourth Thursday in November as the day we now celebrate Thanksgiving.

Gathering

Prelude

Let All Things Now Living arr. Lloyd Larson

Welcome

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Call to Worship

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

We raise our voices in song

to the One who has given us food and shelter, family, and friends.

Gathering Hymn/Litany Based on the Six Days of Creation

For the first of all days and its shining gifts, we give you thanks, O God!

For fire and energy and everything that springs from your gift of light we thank you.

Hymn

Come, You Thankful People, Come (Stanza 1)

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
 God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
 Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt. Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893. Tune: St. George Windsor, 77 77D.

And the evening and the morning were the first day, and it was good. For the second of days and its wonder, we give you thanks, O God!

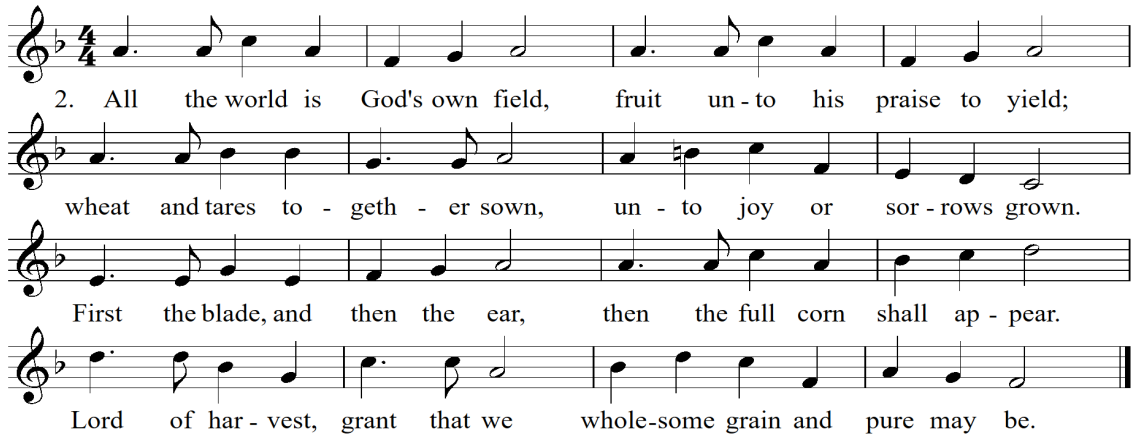
For water below and above, for the beautiful blue of the sea and the sky, for the rain and snow that refreshes and replenishes, for the atmosphere and all of the blessings that came down on your second day of creation we thank you.

And the evening and the morning were the second day, and it was good. For the green growing gifts of the third day, we give you thanks, O God!

For land dry and wet, for desert and bog, for canyons and cactus, for valleys and vines, for fruits for our eating, for the earth and its bounty we thank you.

Hymn

Come, You Thankful People, Come (Stanza 2)



2. All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - rows grown.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.

And the evening and the morning were the third day, and it was good. For the fourth day and its heavenly lights, we give you thanks, O God!

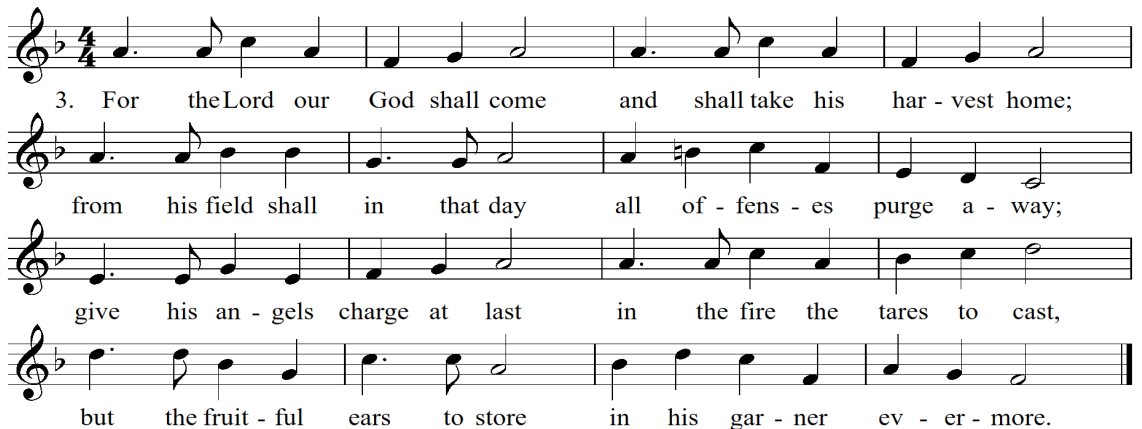
For the beacon of the sun, for the lantern of the moon, for the mystery of the planets and the stars, for sunny days and cool evenings, for seasons and years, tides and time we thank you.

And the evening and the morning were the fourth day, and it was good. For the fifth day of filling the skies and oceans, we give you thanks, O God!

For everything that flies to the heights of your heavens and swims to the depths of your oceans we thank you.

Hymn

Come, You Thankful People, Come (Stanza 3)



3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.

And the evening and the morning were the fifth day, and it was good. For the sixth day and its grand glory, we give you thanks, O God!

For things that creep and crawl, walk and run, and for creating us in Your own image and for your Son, who entered this world to make us your own again, we thank you.

And the evening and the morning were the sixth day, and it was good. For the luxury of the seventh day, we give you thanks, O God!

For the time to recharge and celebrate your creation so that we may praise you more, we thank you.

And it was very good!

Amen.

Hymn

Come, You Thankful People, Come (Stanza 4)

4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Apostolic Greeting

We come today to praise the God of creation. Present your hearts as fields ripe for the Lord's harvest.

We come as thankful people of God.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, 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. This we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

First Reading

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 8.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 65:9-13

Let us sing and read responsively from Psalm 65.

The organ will intone the refrain, then the congregation is asked to sing.



You crown the year with good-ness, your paths ov - er - flow.

Text: Psalm 6591:1. Music: John R. Paradowski Copyright © 2023. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase. [Refrain]

You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;

let them shout for joy and sing. [Refrain]

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

A reading from the book of 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 9.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One, give
 thanks_____ be-cause he's giv - en_____ Je - sus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One, give
 thanks_____ be-cause he's giv - en_____ Je - sus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am Strong," let the poor say, "I am
 rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for_ us. And now let the
 weak say, "I am Strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," be-cause of
 what the Lord has done for_ us. Give thanks!_____

Last Time

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Gospel

Luke 17:11-19

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.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

#694 Sing to the Lord of Harvest

1. Sing to the Lord of harvest your songs of love and praise;
 2. God makes the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,
 3. Bring to this sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,
 with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise;
 the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
 the gold-en sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save.
 by him the roll-ing sea-sons in fruit-ful or-der move;
 God fills them with his full-ness, all things with large-in-crease,
 Your hearts lay down be-fore him when at his feet you fall,
 sing to the Lord of harvest a joy-ous song of love.
 and crowns the year with good-ness, with plen-ty and with peace.
 and with your lives a-dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S.B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt. Music: Johann Steurlein, 1546-1613. Tune: Wie Lieblich Der Maien, 76 76 D.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, we name them now.

(Feel free to speak out loud items you are thankful for in the world.)

For family and friends that have gone before us, we name them now.

(Feel free to speak out loud names of those who are with us in Spirit and in our hearts.)

For family and friends that care and love us, we name them now.

(Feel free to speak out loud special people in your lives who you are thankful for.)

For home and shelter, we name our places of comfort and rest and peace.

(Feel free to speak out loud where a place of peace and comfort and rest is for you.)

For our daily food and drink, for minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
for health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

(Feel free to speak out loud anything that you are thankful to God providing for you.)

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

We thank you, Lord.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Thanksgiving

Musical Offering

A Song of Thanksgiving by John Ferguson – Senior Choir

*Lord! You have been our refuge from one generation to another. Your
love never ceases, your mercies never end. For you are good, O
Lord. Your steadfast love endures forever and ever.*

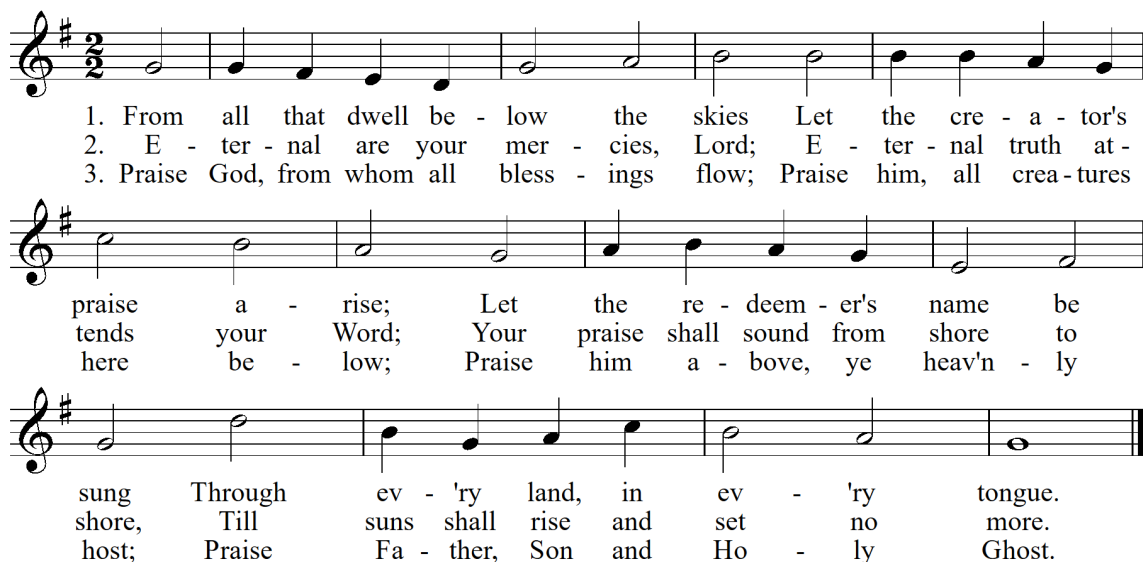
*Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices. Who
wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who,
from our mothers' arms has blest us on our way with countless
gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

Lord! You have been our refuge from one generation to another. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Response

From All That Dwell Below the Skies & The Doxology



1. From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the cre - a - tor's
 2. E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at -
 3. Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all crea - tures

praise a - rise; Let the re - deem - er's name be
 tends your Word; Your praise shall sound from shore to
 here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly

sung Through ev - 'ry land, in ev - 'ry tongue.
 shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.
 host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748 and Thomas Ken 1637-1711 Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH LM. Music: Louis Bourgeois 1510-1561.

Offertory Prayer

God our **Creator**, delighting in the lives of all who live in grateful obedience to your will, we bring to you the thanks offering of our hearts. God our **Redeemer** welcoming all who in humility come to you willingly as servants and disciples we bring to you the thanks offering of our hands. God the **Sustainer**, our power and supporter, we bring to you the thanks offering of our lives.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

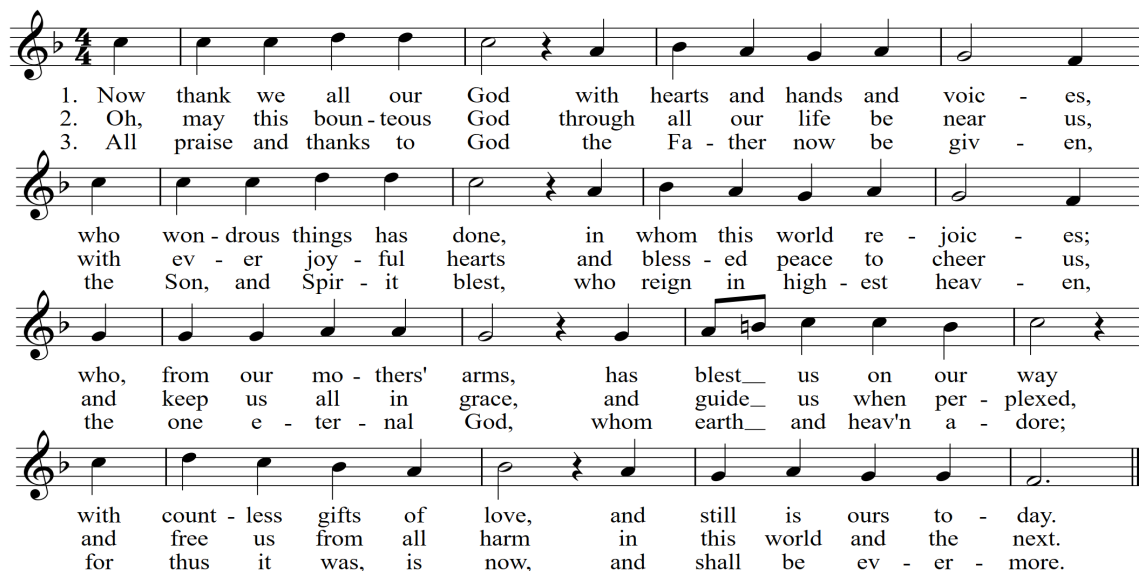
Sending

Closing Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season, and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, in the provisions for our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

#840 Now Thank We All Our God



1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
 2. Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,

who, from our mo - thers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649. tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878. Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.
 Tune: Nun Danket Alle Gott 67 67 66 66.

Benediction

From the hand of God, we have received an abundant harvest.

Let us return thanks to the Lord for the bounty we enjoy.

God loves you and has chosen you as special people.

With thankful hearts we sing our praise to God!

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
 giving thanks to God through him.

Praise and thanksgiving be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God arr. James Pethel