

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Faith Lutheran Church

November 27, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome in Jesus' name. Please consider using the prelude as a time for meditation and silent prayer. This is the ideal time for quiet preparation, as we come to worship God. Holy Communion is celebrated tonight. All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited forward to receive Holy Communion. White grape juice is available – please indicate to the Assisting Minister if this is your preference. Those not communing may come forward to receive a blessing.

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

***GATHERING HYMN:** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* – Hymn 693

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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us give thanks to God for our country and for our president, for ballot boxes, newspaper editorials, and open borders.

C: For all the freedoms we enjoy.

P: Let us give thanks for this vast world, for diplomats, treaties, and compromise.

C: For peace in a world of war.

P: For police officers, streetlights, and concerned neighbors.

C: For safety from fear and harm.

P: Let us give thanks to God for the Scriptures, for creeds and confessions, for the songs and hymns of God's people.

C: For all good things in our heritage of faith.

P: Let us give thanks to God for a marvelous creation, a redeeming Son, and a transforming Spirit.

C: For all the benefits of our salvation.

P: Let us give thanks to God for purple and orange sunsets, bright red flowers, great gray elephants, and the vast blackness of space.

C: For all the wonders, God, of your creative mind.

- P: Let us give thanks to God for Mozart, Michelangelo, and Milton, for pianos, paint brushes, and pencils.
- C: For all the wonders of our creative minds, made in your image, O Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks to God for Thanksgiving turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.
- C: For the abundance of food that sustains our bodies.**
- P: Let us give thanks to God for soft beds, warm fires, familiar chairs, and open windows.
- C: For the abundant comfort of our homes.**
- P: Let us give thanks to God for cars that run, brand-new shoes, and long, hot showers.
- C: For God's goodness that flows above and beyond our needs.**
- P: Let us give thanks to God for healthy immune systems, for gifted doctors and nurses, for the miracle of science.
- C: For the strength and health of our bodies.**
- P: Let us give thanks to God for crossword puzzles, learning foreign languages, and the physics that hold our universe in balance.
- C: For healthy, strong minds.**
- P: Let us give thanks to God for newborn babies, pesky little brothers, wise grandmothers, favorite uncles, loving parents, and fresh fiancées.
- C: For the families that shaped our lives.**
- P: Let us give thanks to God for men and women with dark skin and light skin, freckles and curls, pug noses and beards, graceful limbs, and ample laps.
- C: For all the beautiful diversity of people, all over the world, who make up the one family of God, bound together in Jesus Christ.**
- P: For all these things, we give thanks and praise to God.
- C: Amen**

CHOIR: "With Joyful Thanksgiving" by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Psalm 100 (*To be read responsively*)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6:25—35

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Pastor Sarah Kretzmann

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Silent time for reflection

"It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich."
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

***HYMN: *Praise and Thanksgiving* – Hymn 689**

***NICENE CREED**

P: Using the words of the Nicene Creed let us confess our holy faith:

C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

***PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING (*No monetary offering will be collected this evening*)
COLLECTION OF CANNED FOOD OFFERING

***OFFERTORY:** *God, Whose Farm Is All Creation* – Hymn 734

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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.

HYMN: *Here Is Bread* – Hymn 483

COMMUNION

Hymns Sung during Holy Communion:

Hymn 870: *We Praise You, O God*

Hymn 840: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Hymn 879: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

(*You many remain seated*)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, shepherding God, that you have gathered your scattered flock again this day, feeding us richly with the food of Paradise. Accompany us as we serve you all the days of our lives, and gather us with the saints in the day of our death; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord.

C: Amen

CHOIR: "Now We Thank You, Lord" by Williams and Nolan

***BLESSING**

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Ring of the Bell

Postlude

Participants:

Presiding Minister

Reverend Sarah Kretzmann

Assisting Minister

Reverend Toni Brewster

Organist

Jason Bousset

Choir Director

Diane Christensen

Acolytes

Kale Whitman, Karragan Whitman

Holy Communion Servers

Andrea Shelton

Deb Detlefs

Ushers

Marilyn Schau, Larry Schau

Diane Wilhelm, Herb Wilhelm

Following the worship service, if you are able, please return to the dining hall to help carry out the canned goods and to help clean up and do the dishes. Thanks for your help!

"Simple Gifts"

was written by Elder Joseph while he was at the Shaker community in Alfred, Maine in 1848. These are the lyrics to his one-verse song:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,

'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,

And when we find ourselves in the place just right,

'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gain'd,

To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,

To turn, turn will be our delight,

'Til by turning, turning we come round right.

"If the only prayer
you said
in your whole life was

'Thank You'

that would suffice."

- Meister Eckhart