

Happy Thanksgiving



Praise the Lord.

*I will thank the Lord with all my heart in the assembly of
the upright and in the congregation.*

Psalm 111:1 [EHV]



Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Thursday, November 23rd, 2023

10:00 a.m.

THANKSGIVING



WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

MORNING PRAISE

OPENING HYMN: # 505:1-3 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

♪ For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night;
hill and vale, and tree and flow’r,
sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Please stand (as you are able) for third verse:

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind’s delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



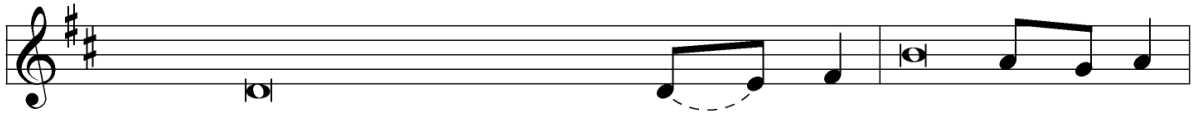
C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



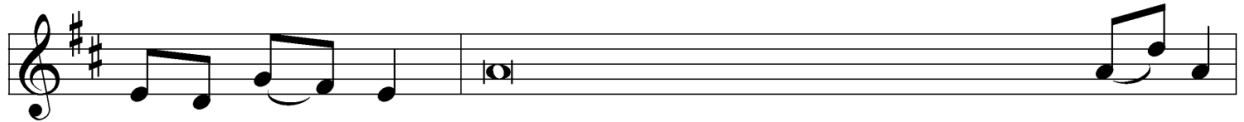
C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: The Spirit of the Lord fills the world: let us worship him.



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



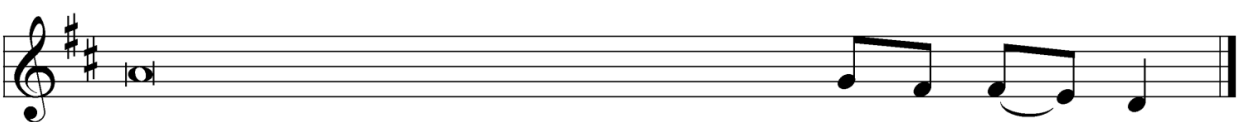
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Please be seated.

PSALM of the Day Psalm 65

Refrain

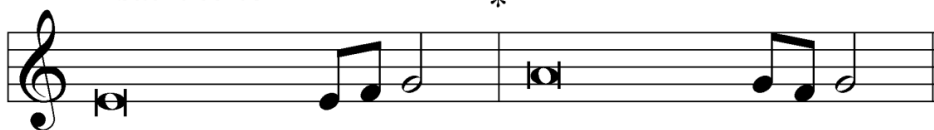


The earth is full of the good-ness of



God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalm tone



Praise awaits you, O God,*
you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it;*
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

The streams of God are filled with water*
to provide the people with grain.

Refrain

You crown the year with your bounty,*
and your carts overflow with abundance.

The grasslands of the desert overflow;*
the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;*
they shout for joy and sing.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:18-22

¹⁸Then King David went and sat before the LORD and said:

Who am I, LORD God? And what is my house that you have brought me to this point? ¹⁹Yet this was a small thing in your eyes, LORD God. You have also spoken about the house of your servant for a long time into the future. Is this the law for the man, LORD God?

²⁰What more can David say to you? You know your servant, LORD God. ²¹Because of your word and according to the plan of your heart, you have carried out this great thing in order to make your servant aware of it. ²²Therefore, you are great, LORD God, because there is none like you. There is no God except you, in keeping with everything we have heard with our ears.

HYMN: “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing”

**♪ Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,
a cheerful trust maintain,
for God, the source of ev’rything,
your treasure shall remain.**

**Why spend the day in blank despair,
in restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care; he makes your burdens light.**

**Did not his love and truth and pow’r
guard ev’ry childhood day?
And did he not in threat’ning hour turn dreaded ills away?**

**He always will with patience chide, his rod falls gently down;
and all your sins he casts aside in ocean depths to drown.**

**His wisdom never plans in vain nor falters nor mistakes;
all that his counsels did ordain a blessed ending makes.**

**Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
and trust his guiding love;
then like a rock your peace shall stand
here and in heav’n above.**

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 4:4-9

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if anything is excellent, and if anything is praiseworthy, think about these things. ⁹The things that you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: Keep doing these things. And the God of peace will be with you.

HYMN: # 597 “Now Thank We All Our God”

**♪ Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother’s arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love and still is ours today.**

**Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 7:36-50

³⁶A certain one of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him. Jesus entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. ³⁷Just then a sinful woman from that town learned that he was reclining in the Pharisee’s house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸stood behind him near his feet weeping, and began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she began to wipe them with her hair while also kissing his feet and anointing them with the perfume.

³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would realize who is touching him and what kind of woman she is, because she is a sinner.”

⁴⁰Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

He said, “Teacher, say it.”

⁴¹“A certain moneylender had two debtors. The one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he forgave them both. So, which of them will love him more?”

⁴³Simon answered, “I suppose the one who had the larger debt forgiven.”

Then he told him, “You have judged correctly.” ⁴⁴Turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house, but you did not give me water for my feet. Yet she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but she, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that is why she loved so much. But the one who is forgiven little loves little.” ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.”

⁴⁹Those reclining at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

Please stand.

HYMN: # 952 “Praise to You, Eternal Father”

♪ Praise to you, eternal Father!

**All the earth proclaims your honor;
great, O God, is your acclaim!**

**Ev’ry angel voice is ringing, “Holy, holy, holy!” singing
to the glory of your name.**

**Praise to you the prophets render,
noble martyrs sing your splendor,
blest apostles swell the song,
while your Church from ev’ry nation
raises praise and adoration which to you alone belong.**

**Praise to you, O Christ our brother,
glorious Son of God the Father – scorning not the virgin’s
womb,
you were cursed for all your creatures,
op’ning heav’n to all believers by your cross and empty tomb.**

**Praise to you, exalted Savior, soon to judge with wrath or favor;
help your servants, Lord, we pray:
by your blood they stand forgiven;
make them shine as saints in heaven, with a glory bright as day.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts,
purely out of thanks to him.*

Litany of Prayer and Praise

The Congregational responses will be sung.

M: We thank and praise you, gracious Lord, for the gifts of your Word,
through which we have found peace, comfort, assurance and eternal
hope.

C: ♪ **O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**
(CW: 642)

M: We thank and praise you, gracious Lord, for the gifts of Faith and
Salvation, by which we have been made your children and heirs of
life everlasting.

C: ♪ **To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
and give him the glory, great things he has done!**
(CW 627)

M: We thank and praise you, gracious Lord, for the gifts of Life and the abundance of our Earthly Possessions.

**C: ♪ For the fruit of his creation, thanks be to God.
For his gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvest we are sharing, God's will is done. (CW 506)**

M: We thank and praise you, gracious Lord, for the countless blessings you have showered upon us in this Nation and among its citizens.

**C: ♪ God bless our native land; firm may she ever stand
thro' storm and night!
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
do thou our country save, by thy great might.**

**For her our prayers shall rise to God above the skies;
on him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye,
to thee aloud we cry: God save the state! (CW 774)**

M: We thank and praise you, gracious Lord, for the Victory you have given to our fellow pilgrims and our own loved ones who now live with you in glory.

**C: ♪ For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain, in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia! (CW 880)**

M: We thank and praise you, gracious Lord, for the growth of Your Kingdom among us and others, to the glory of your name and the salvation of souls.

♪ **Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**His law he enforces; the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing.
With glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!" (CW 507)**

M: For All these and countless other blessings to body and soul which are new to us each morning, we thank and praise you. We unite our hearts and voices in approaching your throne of grace also to sing:

C: ♪ **We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, — glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
thro' trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord,— our battles we win.
(CW 609)**

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you
have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your
mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor
run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is
right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: # 505:4,5 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

♪ **For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv’n;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav’n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERINGS from this year's Thanksgiving Day service, will be sent to our synod's **Christian Aid & Relief**. It is used for times of natural disasters and humanitarian aid.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Sam Daugherty, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, Jerry Yonke, and James Gowin.

MEDITATIONS are on the shelf in the narthex. Treat yourself (and maybe someone you know) to this very beneficial devotional resource. There are also *Advent Devotion* booklets to help us get ready for *real* CHRISTmas.

COMING UP

Living Nativity and Las Posadas - December 10,

beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.



**Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**God his own doth tend and nourish;
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them;
in his mighty arms he bears them.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.**

CW — 502

Thanksgiving...

**A time of gladness
and sharing
with family and
friends.**

**A time for praising
our God,
whose love never
ends.**



