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|





4465 South Blosser Road Santa Maria, CA 93455 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office: 805-937-0339

www.starlutheran.org **Pastor Michael Foley**

Worship Service

Thursday, November 27, 2025 10:00 a.m.



Thought for the day: The traditional symbol for Thanksgiving is the cornucopia or horn of plenty. In Roman mythology, Copia was the goddess of abundance who carried a horn filled with fruits and drinks. The early church took over that symbol and gave it a Christian meaning. The cornucopia symbolizes God's gracious blessings in our lives—blessings that are never exhausted. The horn also signifies the song of thanks that sounds from the lips of his thankful people continually.

MORNING PRAYER (CWH: p. 207)

OPENING HYMN: # 626 "My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness"

■ My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who bore my pain, who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again, who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who walks beside, who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly, whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take, sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

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

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who reigns above, whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose ev'ry thought is love. For ev'ry day I have on earth is given by the King. So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow him, to love and follow him.





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



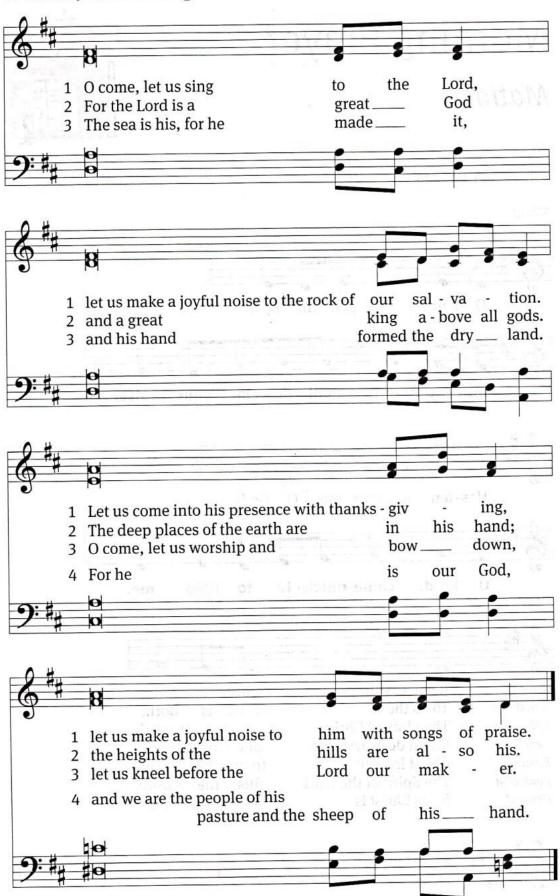
M: Has-ten to save me, O God.





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

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord Venite



Please be seated.

PSALM of the Day Psalm 100

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the LORD with cheerful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise forthtell; come ye before him and rejoice!

Know that the LORD is God indeed; without our aid he did us make. We are his flock; he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise; approach with joy his courts unto. Praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The LORD our God is good; his mercy is forever sure. His truth at all times firmly stood and shall from age to age endure.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: Lord Jesus, you have made us the sheep of your pasture, and we have no more joyous privilege than to enter your gates and sing your praises. As we enter the courts of your house, fill our hearts with sincere thanksgiving for your never-ending grace; for you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 8:18-22

¹⁸Noah went out with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives along with him. ¹⁹Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever swarms on the earth went out of the ship, species by species.

²⁰Noah built an altar to the LORD and took from every clean animal and every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹The LORD smelled the pleasant aroma. The LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the soil anymore because of man, for the thoughts he forms in his heart are evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike every living thing, as I have done. ²²While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

HYMN: # 803 "Day by Day"

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul.

Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.

Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest; Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me strength to serve and wisdom to obey; I will seek your loving will to guide me o'er the paths I struggle day by day. I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in your enduring grace. Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my burdens grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no matter what betide me, you will hold me ever in your hand. Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.

EPISTLE LESSON: James 1:17-18

¹⁷Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or shift like a shadow. ¹⁸Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations.

HYMN: # 602 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

☐ Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some hesitated because they were uncertain. ¹⁸Jesus approached and spoke to them saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age."

HYMN: #611 "Joyously I'll Praise My Savior"

Joyously I'll praise my Savior; for my God I'll gladly sing, as I see his loving favor evident in ev'rything.
In his faithful heart is beating love that's pure and wide and long, love that makes his servants strong.
All I see on earth is fleeting;
God's amazing love for me lasts for all eternity.

God, with firm and clear conviction, gave for me his precious Son, by whose bloody crucifixion
I from hell have now been won.
O you spring of love prevailing, depth of which I'll never know, current which will ever flow.
All I see on earth is failing;
God's amazing love for me lasts for all eternity.

God had seen my sad condition, gave me sight when I was blind; he will be my great physician, healing body, soul, and mind.

When it seem it's not worth trying — all my skill gets nothing done — Jesus helps me carry on.

All I see on earth is dying;

God's amazing love for me lasts for all eternity.

Since your love is never-ending, far beyond what words can say, up to you my hands extending, Father, as your child, I pray: Let your grace to me be given that I may with all my might cling to you both day and night till I see your face in heaven where my praise and love will be yours for all eternity.

OFFERING

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

Please stand.

THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God made me and every creature; and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind, and all my abilities; and I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, cattle, and all that I own, and all that I need to keep my body and life. He protects me from all harm and danger and guards and delivers me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Please be seated.

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: JO 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.

(CWH: 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: I 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!

(CWH: 627)

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

C: I For the fruits 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 harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

(CWH: 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,

Thou who art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye, to thee aloud we cry: God save the state! (CWH: 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: J 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! (CWH: 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!" (CWH: 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: A 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.

(CWH: 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: Gracious God, all that we have comes from you. Guard us from the temptation to let our love grow cold during these last days. Instead, root us in your love so that we may joyfully use all your gifts in service to you and your people. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. (spoken)



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.



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





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, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Delores Bass, Rick Stovall, and Suzy Garvin.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: December 7th, after the service, we will be decorating the sanctuary and fellowship hall. You are all welcome to join us in the fun.

COMING UP

Living Nativity and Las Posadas - December 14, 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.

CWH - 502

Thanksgiving...

At sime of gladness and sharing with family and friends.

At sime for praising our God, whose love never ends.

