

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

Thanksgiving Eve
November 24, 2021

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.

Flowers and plants in our sanctuary are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the chancel (area around the altar), uplift the service participants, and remind us all of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org/ministries/worship, under "Flower sponsorships."

PRELUDE "Thanksgiving Suite"

Charles Callahan

WELCOME

Pastor Johann

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN "For the Beauty of the Earth"



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. Please kneel/stand.)

P Have mercy on us, O God.

C We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need Amen.

P God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ☩ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

C Amen.

(Please stand)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

Spoken

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C To you, our merciful Lord.

A For the heavenly peace which comes from His saving work, let us pray to the Lord.

C To you, our merciful Lord.

A For the peace of this world, and for every blessing afforded to the Church; for the unity Christ has established in His holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.

C To you, our merciful Lord.

A For His providing this holy house and inviting all who gather together for worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C To you, our gracious Lord.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Music in Hymnal, Page 156

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, 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, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

(Please sit)

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 God will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.

- L** ²¹Do not fear, O soil;
 be glad and rejoice,
 for the LORD has done great things!
- ²²Do 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.
- ²³O 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.
- ²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
 the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- ²⁵I 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.
- ²⁶You 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.
- ²⁷You 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.
- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING**1 Timothy 2:1–7**

Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers. We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.

- L** 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

—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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25–33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Spoken

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.

P [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? ²⁶Look 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? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But 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? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Spoken

(Please sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

Hymn No. 789

MESSAGE

“A Life of Thanksgiving”

Pastor Johann

INSTRUMENTAL ANTHEM

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

arr. Dan Lamaestra

(Michael Hermann, cello

Jihea Choi, cello

Dan Lamaestra, guitar)

(Please stand)

PRAYERS

- P** Encouraged by the company of the saints of every time and place, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

(A brief silence.)

- P** In thanksgiving that God has rescued us from the bondage of sin with a mighty hand and redeemed us through the outstretched arms of the crucified one, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In thanksgiving that God has given a bountiful harvest to those who work the land and blessed our country with an abundance of fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In awareness of all those who go to sleep hungry while others of us live in abundance, that God will give us generous hearts and will move us to work for justice and peace until no one suffers from hunger, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In prayer for all who are weak and sick, that God will be near to them and grant them healing and wholeness, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In thanksgiving for the Bread of life shared among us when we gather to hear God's word and participate in the holy meal Jesus gave us, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In thanksgiving for saints whose lives point us to the faithfulness of God that endures from age to age, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Holy God, enthroned in glory and surrounded by saints and angels, we bring before you these petitions and all else that you know we need. Hear our prayers for the sake of our Saviour and King, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

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.

BLESSING

- P** God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✠
bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.
- C** **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

arr. Paul Manz

+

+

+

We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following our Instagram account. Find them by searching @gslcva within those social media platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don’t miss any of our virtual services, kids’ messages, and more! If you have any questions, please reach out to jeff@gslcva.org.

Worship Assistants

Worship Leader & Preacher
 Organist
 Guest Welcome
 Greeter
 Projectionist
 Ushers

Pastor Johann
 Julie Stone
 *
 *
 Jeff Donahue
 *
 *

* = worship assistant needed

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BOARD OF SERVANT LEADERS

Vicki Peter, Chair

June McGurn, Vice-Chair

Kathy Eickelberg, Secretary

Allen Hodges

Leta Kent

Ted Lillestolen

John Stoothoff

CORE MINISTRY AREAS

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide;

Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir (Laura Owens), traditional, contemporary, physical space, support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes)

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James (temporary)

adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, family ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

Life Groups (Brian Cors), member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion (Melinda DeWan), concerts, public events, picnics, intergenerational events

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

property (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications, contracts, church office, calendar/program management, technology

Mission

Team Leader: John and Debbie Linn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

world missions, synod, outreach, social ministry, community service, evangelism, publicity, media, social media

Congregational Care

Team Leader: Marilyn Voigt; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

member care visits, emergency transportation, maintain roster of the willing, guest follow-up

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

About Good Shepherd...

Our vision

We will be a congregation known for building up God's people through His Word for His world.

Worship

During worship, God comes to us through his gifts of Word and Sacrament. What a joy to respond with prayer and songs of praise. Our worship services give us opportunity to listen to God's word and meditate upon it, thus feeding our faith; and express our concerns for our friends, families, community, and the world through prayer.

Serve

We are called to actively share the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and deed. One way we share is by serving one another and our neighbors in our community and throughout the world. Look at our Community Service Opportunities listing to find a way to serve.

Grow

We are committed to spiritual growth through the weekly gathering for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, and through lifelong learning. In addition to growing in knowledge, we want to grow in love and service to others within and beyond our church community.

Connect

As we grow in our love for Jesus and our neighbors, as we serve our neighbors near and far, we help and encourage one another, challenge one another, and share one another's joys and sorrows. We build strong ties when we gather for worship as well as for events throughout the week. Look inside for many opportunities for connection.



**GOOD
SHEPHERD**
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