

7 PM

November 26, 2025

Thanksgiving Eve



It has long been the custom of our people to turn in the fruitful autumn of the year in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many blessings and mercies to us. ~President Wilson, at Thanksgiving

We are a blessed people, and there is so much for which we ought to offer thanksgiving and praise to God! As the Lord Jesus sets a Thanksgiving banquet before us tonight in His Word and in His Supper—the ultimate Thanksgiving Meal—join with your Christian family and give Him all thanks and praise!
Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever! ~Psalm 118:1

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

PRELUDE *Gail Black*

INVOCATION *Pastor Brad Stoltenow*

Divine Service, Setting 4 ~ LSB p. 203; Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

SALUTATION AND PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

P: We pray: Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. Thank you!

OFFERING *For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

VOLUNTARY When All Your Mercies, O My God *Shepherd's Chorale*

OFFERING PRAYER IN SONG # 785 "We Praise You, O God"

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 8:1-20

The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.

Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in His ways and by fearing Him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.

Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His rules and His statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth." You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

RESPONSE

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**





Scripture Photo Art: ©Susan Shoaf

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

~William Arthur Ward



When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Psalms 34:17-19

HYMN # 894 "For the Fruits of His Creation"

EPISTLE READING Philippians 4:6-20

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONSE

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When Jesus saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And Jesus said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

RESPONSE

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

Please be seated.

HYMN # 893 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

MESSAGE "It's All Gift" text: Deuteronomy 8:1-20 Pastor Ben Oesch

Thanksgiving is a reminder that everything—our food and drink, family and home, abilities and opportunities, and our lives, now and into eternity—is a gift from God.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF AND FAITH

First Article, Luther's Small Catechism

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: Dear Friends, what does this mean?

C: **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.**

- P: Why does He do this?
C: **All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.**
P: What, then, is your response?
C: **For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- P: We now go to our God with our thanks, praise, and petitions: Your Word, O Lord, is firmly fixed in the heavens. Teach us to turn to Your Word, trusting that by it You deliver us from danger and surround us with salvation.
C: **Hear us and be near us, O Lord.**
P: You are always faithful, O Lord, while we are prone to wander. Pursue the weak, the worried, and the worldly, and bring them home to Your heart of love.
C: **Hear us and be near us, O Lord.**
P: In times of trial, O Lord, You promise Your unfailing presence. Strengthen the sick and suffering, the lonely, those confined to their home, those struggling with the loss of a loved one. Supply them with support of both body and soul.
C: **Hear us and be near us, O Lord.**
P: Your blessings abound, O Lord, yet we often fear we won't have enough, and we covet what others have. Give us contentment with the daily bread that comes from Your fatherly hand.
C: **Hear us and be near us, O Lord.**
P: May Your Holy Spirit prompt us to be truly thankful that You take care of every need, and may we be truly joyful that You give us even more than what we require.
C: **We praise You, O Lord, the One from whom all blessings flow!**
P: We rest in You, O Lord. We trust that You see our truest needs and will fulfill those prayers beneficial to our faith in Christ and the work and witness to which You call us.
ALL: We place our prayers into Your hands, in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

LSB p. 290; Psalm 67

- P: Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness. Let us seek the depths of God's mercy and grace as we confess our sin.
C: **Almighty God, we confess we are sinners from birth and cannot free ourselves from this condition. We are sorry, Lord. For the sake of Christ our Savior, and His holy, innocent, suffering and death on our behalf, forgive us. Forgive us, also, for shallow thankfulness for warmth and shelter, for forgetting to sing Your praises for food and harvest as well as for the spiritual gifts You provide.**
P: From the bounty of our heavenly Father's provision of grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and by His command, you are ✠ forgiven. From the storehouse of the Holy Spirit's gifts, you are sanctified for daily service in God's kingdom!
C: **Amen!**
P: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.
C: **Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!**
P: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
C: **Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!**
P: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.
C: **God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

- ALL: 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!**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI ~ PEACE OF THE LORD

John 20:19

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
C: **And also with you!**



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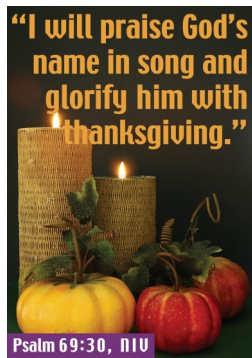
Gratitude is the ability to see the grace of God, morning by morning, no matter what else greets us in the course of the day.
~Craig Barnes



Preparation for Holy Communion:

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. ~1 Corinthians 11:2-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.



Violinists: Ben Barstad, Samantha Visnyei

AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29; Psalm 34:8

- P: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.
C: Have mercy on us and give us Your peace. Amen.
 P: Taste and see that the LORD is good!
C: Blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

DISTRIBUTION

- ◆ You will be ushered forward for Communion.
- ◆ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- ◆ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- ◆ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

892 "Come, Ye Thankful People" with violin # 632 "O Jesus, Blessed Lord"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Gracious Father, all things are Yours, yet Your goodness provides for us more than we deserve or dare ask. Equip our hearts with Your Spirit, that we may learn gratitude and offer You the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for all You have provided, most of all for the treasure of salvation that is ours through the merits of Christ our Savior, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen!

CLOSING SENTENCES AND GOD'S BLESSING

Psalm 118:1, 29; Philippians 4:6-7; Numbers 6:24-26

P: Dear friends, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

C: His steadfast love endures forever!

P: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen!

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen!

HYMN # 895 "Now Thank We All Our God"

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

ADVENT 2025 at SHEPHERD of the HILLS

Shepherd's theme for 2025-26 is "Praying with an Open Heart," based on Philippians 4:6-7. Three characters from Jesus' early life prayed with open hearts, and they experienced God's peace despite the unusual circumstances in which they found themselves. Their prayers were also songs to God—faithful expressions of thanksgiving and trust—because they had learned: When anything happens, pray; trust God will always answer; thank Him!

This Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, please join us for our Wednesday evening services, where we will highlight the prayer-songs of Mary, Zechariah, and Simeon!



PRAYING WITH AN OPEN HEART...

...when Life Is Unexpected: Mary's Song | Dec. 3
 ...with Confident Expectation: Zechariah's Song | Dec. 10
 ...with Gratitude: Simeon's Song | Dec. 17

ADVENT WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:15pm Soup Supper in the Parish Hall
 6:30pm Worship, with Special Music, Children's Chat

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COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS ~ PRAYING WITH THANKFUL HEARTS

For _____, we thank You, Lord!

A	F	K	P	U
B	G	L	Q	V
C	H	M	R	W
D	I	N	S	X
E	Jesus!	O	T	Y
				Z