

**Joint Thanksgiving
Eve Worship Service**

**of Holy Cross Lutheran Church & St John
Lutheran Church of Austin, and Our Savior
Lutheran Church of Brownsdale, MN**



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Phone (507) 437-2107**

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Why Christians Give Thanks

November 25, 2020

AS WE GATHER

A Day of National Thanksgiving is an honored tradition in this nation. But thankfulness to God is something that transcends national borders and the boundaries of time. God's people are always thankful people, for they know what great things He has done and continues to do for them. In Martin Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Creed, he states that in response to God's great gifts, it is the Christian's "duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him." Our worship is one way through which we carry out that joyful duty.

✝ PREPARATION ✝

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 95:1-2; 100:4-5; 147:1, 7*

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: **Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**

Pastor: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

People: **Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!**

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

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

HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" [LSB 892]

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

People: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of all things, we confess that we are indeed sinful. We have broken our fellowship with You and have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We have not lived lives that are continuing expressions of gratitude. We do repent and are truly sorry for all of our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Lord and the source of our salvation. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we live faithfully and with full thankfulness until that time when we rejoice together in Your eternal presence.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord keep you steadfast in the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater

faith and obedience, grant you a spirit of ongoing thankfulness, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

KIRIE *LSB Page 204*

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Gloria in Excelsis (LSB page 204)*

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and with the whole Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. Grant that we with thankful hearts receive Your great mercies and express our gratitude, not only with our lips but also in our lives as we give ourselves to Your service and walk before You in holiness and righteousness all our days. Give us faith that works in love, hope that never disappoints, kindness that never fails, confidence in You that never wavers, patience that does not grow weary, and courage always ready to confess Christ, that we live in Your mercy and die in Your peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 8:1-10*

(A call to remember the goodness of the Lord)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:6-20*
(Doing everything with thanksgiving to God)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL AND VERSE *Psalms 145:15-16; 118:1*

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever.
People: **Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor: The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food in due season.
People: **You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.**

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever.
People: **Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 17:11-19*
(One leper of ten healed shows gratitude to Jesus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “We Praise You, O God” [LSB 785]

SERMON

CREED

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, on this day we thank You for Your bountiful gifts to all of us. We remember Your many acts of kindness to Your people through all ages. We bless You for the orderly progression of the seasons and thank You for the bountiful harvest of the fruits of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We thank You for the Church, asking that the message of salvation joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world. Bless the work of

missionaries, teachers, health workers, and all others who share their faith in countless ways. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We thank You for the world in which we live and pray for the community of nations. Continue to give us all things needful, and grant that we be good stewards of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We thank You for the gift of our families and everyone in them. Help us be truly thankful not only for the material blessings in our lives but for the people who share our lives with us. Grant that our homes be places of love and care and our neighborhoods be welcoming sanctuaries for all. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We thank You for the faithful labor of people living out their vocations for our welfare. Today we ask a special blessing on the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times and who guarantee our safety in times of peace. And we remember those whose labor brings food to our tables in this and in every season. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We thank You that Your care embraces all people as we remember those with special concerns and needs including the ill, hospitalized, and those shut-in, those who sorrow, the unemployed, and underemployed. Help us to find purpose and blessing in assisting those who need the care and compassion that we can offer them. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful God, in our thankful remembrance we recall those no longer among us on earth, who now rejoice in the glorious light of Your heavenly kingdom. Grant that we be inspired by their faithful witness as we look forward to that time when we rejoice together at Your heavenly throne, giving You eternal thanks and praise. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer. Amen.

OFFERING *(As you exit you find offering Basket at the Narthex Area, at the right on the table, for each congregation)*

OFFERTORY “Praise and Thanksgiving” [LSB 789; LW 403]

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13 (LSB, Page 209)*

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather in the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, move us to receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.
Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.

HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God” [LSB 895]
