**~~Thanksgiving: A Service of Gratitude~~**

**Faith Lutheran Church, Culver**

**First Lutheran Church, Meadowlands**

**November 19, 2023**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

P: The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,

***C: Thank you!***

P: The hills and valleys are filled with color, and we say,

***C: Thank you!***

P: The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,

***C: Thank you!***

P: Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,

***C: Thank you!***

P: Our live is filled with love of family and friends, and we say,

***C: Thank you!***

P: We fill this house of God with our voices saying,

***C: Thank you!***

P: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O God, as we enter into this service of thanksgiving and praise.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer of Confession**

P: Gracious Creator, you have given us so much but too often we take those gifts for granted, or as something we are entitled.

You call us to live in a caring community, but too often we place our wants and need first, with those of others a distant second.

You call us to share Your gifts with the world around us, but we are

worried that there may not be enough, and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing.

For all the times when we mistreat and misuse Your gifts, for all the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves, forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom.

God is a gracious giver. God is gracious in forgiveness. God calls us to new patterns and new life. We are a forgiven people! Thanks be to God!

Amen.

**Opening Hymn: *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”***

*LBW #320**ELW #320*

Vs. 1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
 our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Vs. 2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
 sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Vs. 3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
 from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

Vs. 4 A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
 short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

**Opening Prayer based on Psalm 65:1-13**

P: What mighty praise belongs to You, O God, for Your acts of love and faithfulness toward us!

***C: In Your mercy You hear our prayers, You forgive our sins, You provide for our needs. From one end of the earth to the other, You inspire worship and praise! Even nature celebrates Your goodness. We, too, would offer our praise and thanksgiving for Your mercy and Your faithful love toward us. Receive our adoration, our confession, our thanksgiving. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit make Your presence known among us that we may hear Your Word and know Your will. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.***

**Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:7-18**

7For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, 8a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 9a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.

10You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. 11Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. 12When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, 13and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, 14then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, 16and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. 17Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” 18But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

**Psalm 100**

1Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**2Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

3Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**4Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

5For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

6The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” 10He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; 12for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, 14while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**Gospel: Luke 17:11-19**

11On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, 13they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” 14When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. 15Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? 18Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” 19Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

**Sermon**

**Sermon Hymn *“Praise and Thanksgiving”*** *LBW #409* *ELW #689*

Vs.1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things

Living, you have made good; harvest of sown fields, fruits of the

Orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Vs. 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our

Neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work

With you, harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Vs. 3 Father, providing food for your children, by Wisdom’s

Guiding teach us to share with one another, so that,

Rejoicing with us, all others may know your care.

Vs. 4 Then will your blessing reach ev’ry people, freely

Confessing your gracious hand. Where you are reigning, no one Will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land.

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

P: God of all creation, thank you for the wonderful things you have made. Thank you for the universe full of stars and planets. Thank you for our world, full of life. Thank you for making each one of us. Thank you for loving each one of us. Take these gifts we now offer back to you. May they be used to the glory of your name. We offer you ourselves and all the gifts you have blessed us with. Take us and use us to share your love with the world.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayers of the People**

P: Ever faithful Lord, for the many gifts you grant us and the opportunity to enjoy these things. For your daily provision and for the constant signs of your healing love. For the pope amidst despair and the light which always shines. For all these things, “thank you “ is just so inadequate but it’s all we have to show our gratitude in word, thought and action. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.***

P: So thank you, Lord and may our thanks move beyond words to transform us into thankful folk, faithful fold, seeing fold, fold who see need and see the need to act, folk who love to live and live to love, folk who serve you by serving others. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.***

P: Help us to be amongst those who include the excluded and bring in those who are marginalized, that when the opportunities come our way to be healers of division and hurt, to be peacemakers and restorers, we won’t be found wanting. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.***

P: Loving, personal Father, we bring before you those people and issues that are closest to us and that occupy our minds at this time. Today we lift up……. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.***

P: Mighty, wonderful Father, we bring before you people and issues from around our world, including those we’ll never know personally but who remain our sisters and brothers in you. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.***

P: Transforming, healing Father, help us to make the light shine in dark places, to make peace known in violent places, and to bring hope to despondent places. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.***

P: Our prayers, spoken and silent are brought to you now in the name of your Son, Jesus, the healer, includer and redeemer forever.

***C: Amen.***

**Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

***C: Amen.***

**Lord’s Prayer**

***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.***

**Communion Distribution**

**Communion Prayer**

P: Lord God, you gather us together as one people, grateful not

only for the gift of life itself, but also for the many gifts of friendship, love, devotion and forgiveness that we share in common. We thank You, for showing us how to return our thanks by living lives of service, by genuine deeds of hospitality, by extending kindness to the stranger and by our showing of concern for each other. Help us to appreciate and to respect one another. Use us to make You visible and known to others in countless ways so that Your great love for us might be mirrored in our love for one another. As we again prepare to celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving, help us live our lives with ever grateful and humble hearts. Bless us this day and all days without end, forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

**Litany of Thanksgiving inspired by Psalm 96**

P: Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,

***C: the Lord be praised.***

P: For the tables we share and the bread we partake of within our communities, within our families, and within our homes,

***C: the Lord be praised.***

P: For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received,

***C: the Lord be praised.***

P: For your continual provision in our lives,

***C: the Lord be praised.***

P: For the embrace of love,

***C: the Lord be praised.***

P: For your mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing through the night,

***C: the Lord be praised.***

P: For the gift of Your Son and His blood poured out.

***C: the Lord be praised.***

P: For the new life that beats within us now.

***C: the Lord be praised.***

P: In all things, we give You thanks and join with creation’s song,

***C: Great is the Lord and most worthy to be praised!***

**Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. And may blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!

***C: Amen.***

**Sending Hymn *“Now Thank We All Our God”*** *LBW #533 ELW #839*

Vs. 1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
 who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
 who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Vs. 2 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 all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.

Vs. 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
 the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,  
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

P: Go in peace, give thanks Lord.

***C: Yes, we will! Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**

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