**~~Service of Thanksgiving~~**

**St. John’s Lutheran Church, Saginaw**

**St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Canyon**

**November 24, 2024**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Welcome**

P: Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider, whose guidance and care go before us and whose love is with us forever. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on changes, to remember that we, too, grow and change from one season of life to another. Thanksgiving is a time of changing seasons, when leaves turn golden in Autumn’s wake and apples are crisp in the first chill breezes of fall. Let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving. As we see the beauty of Autumn, let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours; let us think of our families and friends and let us give thanks in our hearts as we gather to pray.

**Call to Worship – Psalm 100**

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness!

***C:******Come into His presence with singing! Know that the***

***Lord is God!***

P: It is He that made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

***C: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!***

P: Give thanks to Him, bless His name! For the LORD is good;

***C: His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.***

**Gathering Hymn: *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*** *ELW #879*

Vs. 1 For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
 for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

***Refrain: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice***

***of praise.***

Vs. 2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:

***Refrain***

Vs. 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,  
 for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

***Refrain***

Vs. 4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
 friends on earth, and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and

mild: ***Refrain***

Vs. 5 For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
 for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n: ***Refrain***

**Opening Prayer**

P: Let us pray, worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created. Accept our heart-felt thanksgiving to You for everything that You have performed in our lives, and for the people You have placed on our daily path. Show us how to express gratitude for all things. To You we give praise and adoration, now and forever.

***All: 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.

11 Take 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 o f the house of slavery, 15who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land 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 gained 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 11**

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

***Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who have pleasure in them.***

Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures for ever.

***He has caused his wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.***

He provides food for those who fear him; He is ever mindful of His covenant.

**He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy,

**they are established for ever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and terrible is His name!

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who practice it. His praise endures forever!**

**Lesson: James 1:16-17**

**16**Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters. **17**Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

**Gospel: Luke 15:8-34**

8“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

11Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. 25“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

**Sermon**

**Sermon Hymn *“Great is Thy Faithfulness”***  *ELW #733*

Vs. 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no

shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy com-

passions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

***Refrain: 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.***

Vs. 2 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. ***Refrain***

Vs. 3 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!

***Refrain***

**Peace**

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

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

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

P: Everything is a gift from God, even the smallest things, and it’s the sum of these gifts that makes life beautiful or sad, depending on how we use these gifts.

***C: Amen.***

**Litany of Thanksgiving**

P:The Apostle Paul urged that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people. Since God our Savior desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, let us lift up these intercessions before the Throne on high: For our church leaders and those who oversee the holy Church;

***C: preserve them, O God.***

P: For those elected to political office and posts of public trust;

***C: keep their lives peaceful, O God.***

P: For those who serve in the armed forces;

***C: protect them, O God.***

P: For those whose mission is to bring peace;

***C: grant them success, O God.***

P: For those who are sick and suffering;

***C: cure and comfort them, O God.***

P: For those raising families in godliness and piety;

***C: be their anchor, O God.***

P: For those traveling and their safety;

***C: be their guide, O God.***

P: For farmers and whose labor we depend on for our daily

sustenance;

***C: bless the work of their hands, O God.***

P: For those in need of the Lord’s mercy and help;

***C: sustain them, O God.***

P: For those who are offering their thoughts of gratitude to God;

***C: bless them, O God.***

P: For those who do not know how to express thanks toward

God and others;

***C: inspire their minds and hearts with praise, O God.***

P: For those who have passed into eternal life;

***C: receive them in Your kingdom, O God.***

P: Receive the fervent petitions of those here present, O Lord, and grant their requests uttered in humility and with love. May our intercessions be acceptable in Your sight, so that all of us may one day enjoy the happiness of heaven. All praise, honor and worship are due to You, now and 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, dear God, 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. Allow us to see the full spectrum of Your gifts and the marvelous diversity of Your many peoples. 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.**

**Sending**

P: May thanksgiving be more than a special day; may it be for us a way of life.

**C: We have been enriched in every way for great generosity. Thanksgiving to our God!**

P: Appreciate anew the good earth that is our inheritance from a loving God.

**C: We celebrate again God’s goodness to our ancestors and God’s continuing provision for us.**

P: The God who has answered our prayers asks our help in answering

the prayers of others.

**C: We will not forget the source of our good life or think we can keep it by hoarding it.**

P: God, who raised mountains and stills roaring seas, will dwell with us to calm and uplift.

**C: Grant us, O God, to live peaceably with all your love and with thankfulness at the heart of all we do.**

**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”***  *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.

**Sending**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

***C: We will. Thanks be to God.***

**Postlude**

**SALT Parish Cookie, Candy & Bake Sale & Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday, December 7, 2024**

**9:00-1:00**

**Faith Lutheran Church, Culver**

**Cookies - $5.00/dozen, Bars & Other Treats - $5.00/half dozen**

**Pancake Breakfast**

**2 Pancakes, Sausage, Juice or Coffee $5.00**

**3 Pancakes, Sausage, Juice or Coffee $6.00**

All proceeds will benefit SALT Parish Ministries

Cookie Drop-off Friday, December 6th 3:00-5:00 pm

**This week at SALT**

**SALT Parish**

**South Arrowhead Lutherans Together**



**Faith Lutheran Church,**

**5697 Hwy. 7, Culver, 55779**

**First Lutheran Church,**

**9988 Elm St, Meadowlands, 55765**

**St. John's Lutheran Church,**

**4893 Independence Rd, Saginaw, 55779**

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church,**

**7260 Highway 53 N, Canyon, 55717**

**David Erdmann, Minister 218-391-7951**

**Web Site: saltparish.org**

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