

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO**



**THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 24, 2021, 7:00 PM**

Order of Worship

Serving Us At God's House Today
Organist – Ruth Greening
Ushers – Wayne and Zachary Ruegge

Preparation for Worship

Psalm 100 (pew bible, p.532)

Opening Prayer

Hymn 892

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

The Invocation

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

C (says) Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all:

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us:

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

P Let us pray:

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful to us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

First Lesson: Psalm 104, selected verses – *Every good gift is from above and comes down from our heavenly Father. He created the world and all that is in it. He it is who blesses each of us with portions of His own possessions. The greatest of all of God's blessings is faith by which we know Him as our Savior and by which we look to Him as our all-merciful Provider. May we ever bless His holy name and offer Him our heartfelt thanks!*

Praise the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot

and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants. He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work. He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart. How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

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Second Lesson: Matthew 6:24-34 – *Faith can all too easily be drowned in a sea of worldly concerns, which divert our eyes from our Savior and our mind’s from the work of His kingdom. May we ever love Him above all things and thank Him heartily for the care He shows us above all creation!*

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

+ + +

Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation to the Fourth Petition
of the Lord’s Prayer, with Matthew 6:33

- P “Give us this day our daily bread.” What does this mean?
C **God gives daily bread without our asking, even to unbelievers,**
P but we pray in this petition that He would teach us to realize this
C **and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**

- P What does “Daily Bread” mean?
- C “Daily bread” means everything we need for our bodily well-being.**
- P It includes food, drink, clothing, shoes,
- C house, home, land, animals, money and goods,**
- P a godly husband or wife, devout children,
- C good workers, honest and faithful leaders,**
- P good government, good weather,
- C peace, health, law and order,**
- P an honorable name, faithful friends,
- C trustworthy neighbors—and things like that.**
- P But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
- C and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Hymn 785

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

The Sermon

Based on Psalm 92:1-6

“It is Good to Give Thanks to the Lord”

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night, on an instrument of ten strings, on the lute, and on the harp, with harmonious sound. For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands. O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep. A senseless man does not know, nor does a fool understand this. [NKJV]

Hymn 895

Now Thank We All Our God

Thanksgiving Offering

Responsive Prayer

- P Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the kindness and mercy You have showered upon us, Your beloved children in Christ.
- C You continually feed, clothe, guard, and protect us, and in countless ways amply provide for our physical well-being.**
- P We thank You, kind and gracious God, for Your many blessings upon our Christian families.
- C We are confident that You watch over us whenever we leave our homes, and that unknowingly we are constantly brushed by the feather tips of guardian angel wings.**
- P Furthermore, You supply shelter over our heads, and provide us with employment and income and with health and strength to carry on.
- C By the example of Your own love for us You have taught us and the members of our families to love and respect one another and to live together in peace and harmony.**
- P It is true, O Father, that at times You find it necessary to chasten us, but You also heal.
- C You bring us low but then graciously raise us up again and make us better people through the experience.**

P By hearing and answering our prayers You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

C We thank You and bless Your holy name.

P But Your choicest benefits are those which have secured our everlasting salvation.

C How gracious You are to forgive the many sins we daily commit, because You sent Your Son Jesus to make payment in full for them!

P How richly blessed we are, for who can now condemn us?

C How blessed we also are for the countless opportunities to receive Your holy Word through faithful preaching and teaching!

P Through Your Word the Holy Spirit continues to establish our hearts in the true faith unto everlasting life.

C We praise You for these priceless spiritual blessings.

P In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord, in whose name we also join and pray:

Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

From 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

P Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

C (says) Amen.

Closing Hymn: 880 (1,4,5)

Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

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A THANKSGIVING DAY DEVOTIONAL READING
FROM LUTHER'S *LARGE CATECHISM*
(On the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer)

† † †

Give us this day our daily bread

Here we now consider that poor breadbox, the needs of our body and of our earthly life. It is a brief, plain word, this petition, but it covers a wide area. For when you pray for “daily bread,” you are praying for everything that contributes to your having and enjoying your daily bread, and conversely you are praying against everything that would prevent you from having and enjoying your daily bread. So you must open up and expand your thinking, so that it reaches not only as far as the flour bin and baking oven but also out over the broad fields, the farmlands, and the entire country that produces, processes, and conveys to us our daily bread and all kinds of nourishment. For if God did not cause crops to grow and did not bless and preserve them in the fields, we could never have a loaf of bread to take from the oven and put on the table.

Briefly stated, this petition is meant to include everything that is connected with our entire life on earth because it is only for the sake of this life that we need daily bread. Now, what we need is not only food, shelter, and other necessities for the body, but also peace and harmony between us and those among whom we live and move in our daily business, trade, or association of any kind—in short, we need everything that pertains to the management not only of our domestic but also of our community or civic affairs. For where these two, the domestic and civil relationships, are disrupted and do not function properly, there also the necessities of life are interfered with, until finally life itself cannot be maintained.

A long prayer of many words could be made out of (this petition) by listing all the things it includes. For example, we could pray God to give us food and drink, clothing, house and home, a healthy body; to let the grain and the fruits of the field grow to maturity; to help us to manage our household affairs well; to give and preserve to us a good wife, good children, good servants; to cause our job, trade, or occupation to succeed and prosper; to send us good neighbors and good friends, and so on. We could continue our prayer by asking God to give wisdom, strength, and success to the governing authorities, enabling them to rule well and to be victorious over aggressors and all enemies; to enable their subjects and people in general to live together in obedience, peace and harmony; on the other hand, to guard us against all manner of harm to our body and means of subsistence, against storm, hail, fire, and flood, against poison, pestilence, and cattle disease, against war and bloodshed, famine, savage beasts, wicked persons, and similar evils.

But this petition is chiefly directed against our worst enemy, the devil. His sole intent and desire is to take from us the things that come to us from God or to interfere with their benefiting us. He is not satisfied to disrupt and destroy spiritual order so as to mislead souls by his lies and bring them under his power, but he also obstructs and hinders the establishment of any kind of order or honorable and peaceful human relations. So he causes endless strife, murders, riots, and war; also tempests and hail to destroy crops and cattle; also pollution of the atmosphere, and so on. In short, it pains him when he sees anyone receiving a bit of bread from God and eating it in peace. If it were in his power and if, next to God, our prayers did not restrain him, we would certainly not be able to keep one blade of vegetation in the field, one penny in the house, or even one hour of our life, especially if we belong to those who have God's Word and want to be Christians.

Notice the way God wants to show us how He cares for us in all our need and how faithfully He provides for our day by day existence. Although He gives these things and sustains them for us in rich supply, also in the case of wicked men and scoundrels, yet He wishes us to pray for these blessings, so that we may recognize that they come from His hand and, when we receive them, feel His fatherly goodness toward us.

† † †

Give Thanks Always for All Things
(Ephesians 5:20)

Thank God for the sunshine, thank God for the rain,
Thank God for your pleasures, thank God for your pain;
As clouds in a sunset true beauty impart,
So clouds of affliction will mellow the heart.

Thank God for the morning, thank God for the night,
Thank God for your hearing, thank God for your sight;
Then let your thanksgiving be shown in your deeds,
For actions speak louder than sermons or creeds.

Thank God for the harvest, the rich, fertile field,
The grains and the orchard, the fruits that they yield.
Forget not the Giver, thank Him as you lay
Your gift on the altar This Thanksgiving Day.



Thank God for these blessings, but though these depart,
Who then yet could silence the song in your heart,
The thankful oblation that peace has been won,
Oh, thanks be to God, you have peace through His Son.

Esther A. Schumann