



## St. John Lutheran Church

2888 W Houghton  
Lake Dr  
Houghton Lake,  
MI 48629  
989-366-5164

**5:00 — Thanksgiving Eve**



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***November 22, 2023***

# ***Welcome***

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service.

May God bless your worship with us today,  
*Paul Kruse, Pastor*

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Mobile: 989-992-6030

***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn,  
Share, and Serve.***

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of Christian  
faith in our community, to all generations, wherever they  
may be.*

## Service Setting for Today Prelude

## Creative Worship "Gratitude"

All my words fall short I got nothing new  
How could I express All my gratitude

I could sing these songs As I often do  
But every song must end And You never do

So I throw up my hands And praise You again and again  
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah  
And I know it's not much But I've nothing else fit for a king  
Except for a heart singing Hallelujah hallelujah

I've got one response I've got just one move  
With my arms stretched wide I will worship You

So I throw up my hands And praise You again and again  
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah  
And I know it's not much But I've nothing else fit for a king  
Except for a heart singing Hallelujah hallelujah

Come on my soul oh don't you get shy on me  
Lift up your song 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs  
Get up and praise the Lord

Come on my soul oh don't you get shy on me  
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Come on my soul oh don't you get shy on me  
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'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah  
And I know it's not much But I've nothing else fit for a king  
Except for a heart singing Hallelujah hallelujah

## Welcome and Call to Worship

### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

**C** **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

**P** Let Israel say,

**C** **“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

**P** Let the house of Aaron say,

**C** **“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

**P** Let those who fear the LORD say,

**C** **“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

**P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

**C** **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

### Opening Song

### “Beautiful Savior” *LSB 537*

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,

Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,

Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,

He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,

Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, Praise, adoration

Now and forevermore be Thine!

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P** With abundant generosity, God created the universe, the earth, all creatures, and each of us. He daily blesses and sustains us and all creation. Yet by our sin, God's good creation is broken. So let us confess our sin and hear again God's re-creating word of forgiveness.

**C** **We confess to You, O Lord, that we are naturally inclined to sin and self-centeredness. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. In addition to the wrong things we have done, we have also left many good things undone. And like the nine lepers, we fail to thank You as we should.**

**P** Take heart! Jesus has come to forgive your sins and He will one day return and make all creation new. With joy, I, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus, declare to you His forgiveness. By the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever! Alleluia!**

## Song of Forgiveness

## “Good, Good Father”

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like,  
but I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night.  
And You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone.

You're a good, good Father. It's who You are,  
it's who You are, it's who You are, and I'm loved by You.  
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am.

Oh, and I've seen many searching for answers far and wide.  
But, I know we're all searching for answers only You provide,  
'cause You know just what we need before we say a word.

You're a good, good Father. It's who You are,  
it's who You are, it's who You are, and I'm loved by You.  
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am.  
Because You are perfect in all of Your ways.

You are perfect in all of Your ways.  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us.  
You are perfect in all of Your ways.  
You are perfect in all of Your ways.  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us.

Oh, it's love so undeniable I, I can hardly speak.  
Peace so unexplainable I, I can hardly think  
as You call me deeper still, as You call me deeper still,  
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love.

You're a good, good Father. It's who You are,  
it's who You are, it's who You are, and I'm loved by You.

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am.

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## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Lord God, our Creator, Your generosity exceeds our imaginations.

**G** **Fill us with thankfulness for Your divine goodness and mercy, so that our hearts overflow with generosity in our homes, churches, and communities;**

**P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

**G** **Amen.**

## First Reading

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

<sup>1</sup> “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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup>Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup>Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. <sup>6</sup>So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Philippians 4:6-20

<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me— <sup>10</sup>I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup>I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup>I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup>I can do all this through him who gives me strength. <sup>14</sup>Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup>Moreover, as you Philippians

know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. <sup>17</sup> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

Luke 17:11–19

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

**G Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy, met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" <sup>18</sup> Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Sermon Song

## "Praise and Thanksgiving" *LSB 789*

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer  
For all things living, Created good:  
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,  
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, 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.

Father, providing Food for Your children,  
By Your wise guiding Teach us to share  
One with another, So that, rejoicing  
With us, all others May know Your care.

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## Message

## "Give Thanks for What You Don't Have"

### Nicene Creed

**☐ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

**Catechism** Explanation to the First article



Pastor: 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.

**Men:** *He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.*

**Women:** *He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.*

Pastor: He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

**People: All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Filled with gratitude for all of God's mercy and provision, let us pray for the Church, for our nation, for our local community, and for our own needs, filled with thanksgiving that Jesus has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. For the Church throughout the world,

**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

**P** For the Pastors, teachers, and all church workers of our Synod,

**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

**P** For missionaries far away and in difficult circumstances in our own nation,

**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

**P** For the elected leaders of our nation, state, and local community,

**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

**P** For doctors and nurses, fire fighters and police officers, construction and restaurant workers, teachers and counselors, and everyone else who contributes to the well-being of our community,

**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**

- P** For Your presence with those who are sick, dying, or mourning,  
**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**
- P** For the people in our lives who love us and those we are called to love—  
families, friends, co-workers, and neighbors,  
**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**
- P** For safe travel for those gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving Day,  
**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**
- P** For the ongoing generosity of this congregation, which provides Word  
and Sacrament ministry, Christ-centered community, and service to our  
neighbors,  
**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**
- P** For the life and witness of those who have gone before us in faith and  
now rest from their labors eternally in the arms of Jesus,  
**C** **we give You thanks, O Lord.**
- P** We entrust our prayers to You, gracious Father, who with Your Son,  
Jesus, and the Holy Spirit reign forever as God of all.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Offering

*Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you  
directly to our donation site.*



## The Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

- 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 remember and give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all  
places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who graciously healed ten lepers as a sign of

His one day restoring all creation through His death and resurrection. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- P** God of abundant generosity, You supply every need according to Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. We thank You for gifts of house and home, food and clothing, family and friends. Most especially, we thank You for the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, who in His body and blood gives us forgiveness of sins, true life, and salvation from all false gods. For all this it is both our duty and our delight to thank and praise You.
- C** **To our God and Father be glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

### **Proclamation Of Christ**

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 209*

- C** **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.**

## **Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**

*The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and*

*forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:*

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
- 4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
- 5. Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
- 6. Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

*If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.*

## **Distribution Songs**

## **"Now Thank We All Our God" LSB 895**

Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today.

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 in His grace  
And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns

With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

### **“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”** *LSB 702*

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;  
My zeal inspire!

As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll,

Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Text: Public domain

### **“Thank You Jesus For The Blood”**

I was a wretch I remember who I was

I was lost I was blind I was running out of time  
Sin separated the breach was far too wide  
But from the far side of the chasm  
You had me in Your sight

So You made a way across the great divide  
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside  
There at the cross You paid the debt I owed  
Broke my chains freed my soul  
For the first time I had hope

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied  
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white  
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life  
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

You took my place laid inside my tomb of sin  
You were buried for three days  
But then You walked right out again  
And now death has no sting and life has no end  
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied  
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white  
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life  
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied  
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white  
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life  
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light  
Glory to His name Glory to His Name  
There to my heart was the blood applied  
Glory to His name

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray. Lord God, as Jesus healed all ten lepers, so You graciously provide for all of us gathered here today. You bless all creation with Your gracious provision. Guide our hearts and minds to acknowledge all Your gifts and to live in constant thanksgiving to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

## Blessing

**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.

**G Amen.**

## Closing Song

### **“Give Thanks with A Grateful Heart”** *LSB 806*

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He’s given  
Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He’s given  
Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say “I am strong,”  
Let the poor say “I am rich,”  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say “I am strong,”  
Let the poor say “I am rich,”  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, give thanks.

Text: Henry Smith, 1952

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#### **Acknowledgments**

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