



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 26, 2025

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

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Joyfully
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 Preludes

Divine Service Four (pp 203ff) "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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Except for a heart singing Hallelujah hallelujah

"Counting My Blessings"

It's like it was yesterday I was praying for a miracle
Scared to have a little hope And now looking back today
Seeing all the things you've done I can't even add them up

One two three Up to infinity
I'd run out of numbers
Before I could thank you for everything

God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high

And I know that seasons Never last forever
So God I will remember All of the reasons
My heart has to be grateful
All the times you've been faithful to me

God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high

Oh I can't count that high ... High

One two three Up to infinity
I'd run out of numbers
Before I could thank you for everything

God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high

I will keep counting my blessings
Knowing I can't count that high

Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

Opening Song "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.
The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.
You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.
And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still my soul will sing Your praise unending ...
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name,
worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name,
worship Your holy name, worship Your holy name.

- P** In the name of the Father
 - C** **who created this world and each of us, a reason to give thanks;**
 - P** and of the Son,
 - C** **our ultimate reason for giving thanks because through His love and sacrifice on the cross we are saved;**
 - P** and of the Holy Spirit
 - C** **who calls, gathers, and enlightens us in the one true faith in Jesus.**
- Amen.**

Opening Sentences

- P** Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
- C** **for His steadfast love endures forever.**
- P** Give thanks to the God of gods,
- C** **for His steadfast love endures forever.**
- P** Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
- C** **for His steadfast love endures forever.**
- P** To Him who alone does great wonders.
- C** **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** The fool says in his heart,
- C** **“There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.**
- P** We want to think it is other people David refers to in this verse. Yet Paul puts us all in the same category when he writes to the Romans,
- C** **“All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed. We deserve Your punishment, both now and for eternity.**

(a moment of silence for reflection)

- P** I have the best news for you as we celebrate and give thanks to God for all He has done this year. He has given us the greatest thing to be thankful for today—

the forgiveness of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." Amen.

Service of the Word

P I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

C I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

P O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all;

C: the earth is full of Your creatures.

P These all look to You,

C to give them their food in due season.

P When You give it to them, they gather it up;

C when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things.

P When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created,

C and You renew the face of the ground.

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.

P I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

C I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Kyrie

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord;

C Lord, have mercy.

P For thanksgiving for all that comes from above, especially our salvation, let us pray to the Lord;

C Lord, have mercy.

P For thanksgiving for all that You have created, and for the well-being of the church of God, let us pray to the Lord;

C Lord, have mercy.

P For thanksgiving for all, and that you would bring unity and peace to Your people, let us pray to the Lord;

C Lord, have mercy.

P In thanksgiving for this holy house and all who offer You their worship, thanks, and praise, let us pray to the Lord;

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank You for all the mercies You have shown to us. You give us food and drink, a place we can call home, and most importantly, the sacrifice of Your Son on the cross to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation through His atoning death and resurrection, which conquered death and the grave forever. Help us not to be fools, that we instead give You thanks on this day and every day. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

¹ “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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of

the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.⁷ 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,⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey,⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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

⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸I have received full

payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

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

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

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Sermon Song "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" *LSB 782*

Gracious God, You send great blessings
New each morning all our days.

For Your mercies never ending,
For Your love we offer praise.

Lord, we pray that we, Your people

Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,

Through the sharing of Your blessings

May bring glory to Your name.

By Your Word You formed creation Filled with creatures large and small;
As we tend that endless treasure May our care encircle all.

Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.

In His earthly life, our Savior Knew the care of faithful friends;
May our deeds of dedication Offer love that never ends.

Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.

(Please Stand)

Heav'nly Father, may our caring Bear the imprint of Your grace;
With the Son and Holy Spirit, Praise be Yours in ev'ry place!

Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.

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Sermon

Message

"A Fool's Trust"/Luke 12:13-21

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.

Prayer of the Church

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.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy *(Sung)*

LSB 208

G **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have given us all we need for this body and life. We especially give You thanks for the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we have been forgiven on the cross. As we come to partake of His true body and blood shed for us, help us to do it not just with sorrow for our sins but also with thanksgiving for salvation received and strength to live a new life filled with thankful hearts every day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

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.**

The Peace of the Lord

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Lamb of God (sung)

LSB 210

**☒ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

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

"Love Of God"

It's so good I almost can't believe it
Far beyond what hearts could ever dream
The God who set the galaxies in motion
Would descend to give His life for me

For what could make perfection bleed for sinners
What leads a King to pay so great a cost
All my life my heart will sing the answer Only the love of God

Singing oh how great is the love of God
He paid our debt on that rugged cross
For all our days we will sing our Savior's praise
How great is the love of God

It's so kind it leads us to repentance
It's so bright the darkness has to flee

Hallelujah it cleared my guilty sentence
For I was bound but now I stand redeemed
For what could break the chains of any prison
What force could rob the power from the grave
What would trade my rags for heaven's riches Only the love of God

Singing oh how great is the love of God
He paid our debt on that rugged cross
For all our days we will sing our Savior's praise How great is the love of God

Though I try my mind can't comprehend it
It's so high too marvelous for words
I could sing a million songs about it
And barely scratch the surface of Your worth

This all my life the banner I'll be waving
My anthem cry no matter what may come
And when I rise to walk the streets of heaven
I'll still be singing this song
For everything that You've done How great the love of God

Singing oh how great is the love of God
He paid our debt on that rugged cross
For all our days we will sing our Savior's praise How great is the love of God

I'm singing oh how great is the love of God
He paid our debt on that rugged cross
For all our days we will sing our Savior's praise
How great is the love of God
How great is the love of God
Thank You Jesus

Benjamin Hastings, Brandon Lake, Cody Carnes, Phil Wickham CCLI Song #7241154

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord,

C for His mercy endures forever.

P We pray. We give You thanks, almighty God, that through Your wisdom You sacrificed Your Son, and through His death and resurrection, we now have peace with You. Help us not act as fools, scorning our salvation or considering it a trite thing, but to be wise and receive the great gifts of life and salvation now and for the age to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Forever”

Give thanks to the Lord Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever Sing praise sing praise
With a mighty hand And outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever Sing praise sing praise
Sing praise sing praise
Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us Forever, and ever forever
From the rising to the setting sun

