



*For the Beauty
of the Earth*

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

6:30 P.M.

Welcome & Announcements

A Litany For Thanksgiving

Pastor: For the beauty of the earth, the splendor of the skies, and the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

All: We lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord.

Pastor: For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,

All: We gather to give thanks for your abundant gifts, Creator of all.

Pastor: For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above,

All: We rejoice in the bonds of love you have given us, O God.

Pastor: For yourself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given, for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven,

All: We come to worship with grateful hearts, offering our lives in thanks and praise.

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Lord with joy and thanksgiving!

All: For the beauty of the earth and the blessings of God's grace, we give thanks and rejoice. Amen!

Opening Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

(hymn) 879

¹For 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.

²For 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*

³For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

⁴For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

⁵For 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*

A Thanksgiving Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: Together we confess ...

All: Gracious God, we confess that we have not always lived with hearts full of gratitude. Though your gifts surround us—the beauty of the earth, the wonder of each hour, the joy of human love—we often fail to see them or to offer you thanks. We have taken your blessings for granted, neglecting to pause in awe of your goodness. Forgive us for our ingratitude and for the ways we turn away from your gifts. Teach us to see the world through eyes of wonder and hearts of thankfulness, that we may live each day rejoicing in your love and grace. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: God's love is steadfast, and God's mercy is unending. Though we fall short, God does not withhold grace. Through Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free to live lives of gratitude and joy. In Jesus' name, we are reminded that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Rejoice and give thanks, for we are forgiven! Amen.

Special Music

“Come, You Thankful People, Come!”

Vocal & Bell Choirs

First Reading

Psalm 8

Pastor: O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

All: You have set your glory above the heavens.

Pastor: Out of the mouths of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,

All: To silence the enemy and the avenger.

Pastor: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

All: The moon and the stars that you have established;

Pastor: What are human beings that you are mindful of them,

All: Mortals that you care for them?

Pastor: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,

All: And crowned them with glory and honor.

Pastor: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

All: You have put all things under their feet,

Pastor: All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

All: The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Pastor: O Lord, our God,

All: How majestic is your name in all the earth!

Gospel Reading Luke 12:22-31

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you--you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Children's Sermon

Sermon

¹Now 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.

²Oh, 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.

³All 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.

Prayers

Pastor: Generous God, we praise you for green pastures and abundant harvests. Feed us with the fruit of the earth, the work of human hands. Bless those who labor in fields and factories for the food that nourishes and strengthens us. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: God of Care, Concern, and Abundance, we praise you for our community of faith. You have brought us this far by faith. In times of worry and uncertainty, continue to renew our trust in your abundance. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: God of Provision, we praise you for your tender care. Be present with those who weep this night and this holiday season. Lead them through their sorrow and tears. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: God of All Creation, you created the heavens and the earth with a word. By your living Word, Jesus Christ, you opened the way to everlasting life. Fill us, we pray, with rich words of thanksgiving and grace, that in all we do we may practice lives of glad thanks-*living*. Then all the world will know your great, amazing grace. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: We offer these prayers to you, good and generous God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: In the night in which Jesus was betrayed ... Do this also, in remembrance of me. God of grace, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine that we are about to receive, and on each person gathered here tonight. Bless us to be your grateful people, nourished by your grace and sent to proclaim your generosity and our gratitude to all the world. Now, as we are all gathered into one by God's Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus has taught us to pray.

All: Our Father, Who art in Heaven ... forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Communion—*Tithes and Offerings may be brought forward when coming for Communion*

Communion Music

Communion Blessing

Benediction

Pastor: Now, go forth with hearts full of gratitude, for God has blessed us abundantly.

All: We give thanks for the beauty of creation, the love of Christ, and the gifts of the Spirit.

Pastor: Go forth as a thankful people, sharing God's grace with the world.

All: We will proclaim God's goodness and live as witnesses of God's love.

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, † and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace, with thankful hearts, and share Christ's love with joy!

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Participants in this Evening's service:

Pastors: Dale and Carrie Stiles

Accompanist: Jeanne Richards

Tech Team: Chris Timmons

Special Music: Vocal and Bell Choirs

**The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 28
in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.**

Do Not Be Afraid

ADVENT 2024

Advent Begins
December 1

Soup Suppers
5:30 p.m.

Holden Evening Vespers
6:30 p.m.



Sunday, December 1 - Hope
Greening of the Church
(immediately after worship)

Wednesday, December 4 - Hope
Sunday, December 8 - Peace
Wednesday, December 11 - Peace

Sunday, December 15 - Joy
Sunday School/Discovery Center
Children's Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 18 - Joy
Sunday, December 22 - Love

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29
Service of Lessons & Carols



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!