

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thanksgiving Worship, Year C
November 25th, 2025



Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Cindy Michalski

Reader: Cindy Michalski

Altar Guild: Linda Wery

Communion Assistant: Gayle Peot

Ushers: Angel & Bella Upstone

Pies: Nancy Moran, Linda Wery, Doris Brack

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 100)

Come before the Lord with joyful songs,
because God is good,
because God is generous,
because we lack nothing.

Let us enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise.

Serve the Lord with gladness,
because of God's greatness and justice,
because God puts an end to war,
and to all forms of violence.

Let us enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise.

Come before the Lord with joy
because God is faithful to all promises,
because God's Word is eternal.

Let us enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise.

Know that the Lord is God,
and we are God's people,
God's community, God's family.

Let us enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise.

It is the Lord who has made us to the praise of God's name,
and therefore today, in the same spirit,
we have a festival to celebrate God's peace.

Let us enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Soli Deo Gloria



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and
 5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: SOLI DEO GLORIA, Marty Haugen

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Prayer of the Day

The God who created the world and fills it with life be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, **your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

1 "When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. 3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' 4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, 5 you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. 6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7 we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8 The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. 11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Singing Psalm 148

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 As for

the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 6:25-35

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

The day after he multiplies bread to feed five thousand people, Jesus is pursued by the crowds clamoring for more bread. Recalling the image of manna in the wilderness, Jesus promises to provide the true bread from heaven that will never fail. Jesus himself is that bread of life.

25 When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " 32 Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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

Homily

Pastor Kim



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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Prayers of the People

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world,
 and all who are in need.

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,

so we lift our hearts up to you, God,

in praise and thanksgiving.

As we count our blessings, and acknowledge your goodness,

our hearts go out to those who do not have,

and who are in need.

We thank you for plentiful harvests and full refrigerators
and ask that you supply the needs of those who are hungry.

We thank you for jobs that provide for our families
and supply the needs of our society,
**and pray that you would care for those who have no work,
or the dignity and purpose it brings.**

We thank you for opportunities and choices,
for meaning and challenges,
**and pray that you would give a sense of purpose
to those who feel trapped.**

We thank you for family and friends who love us and care for us
and pray that you would befriend those who are alone.

The abundance of the harvest
is a symbol of the abundance of your love in our lives.
**May we live in a spirit of gratitude to you
and generosity to our neighbor.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

Loving God, in this season and all year long,
give to us the gift of a thankful heart,
**so that we may acknowledge you as the giver
of all that is good in our lives.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

One of the greatest gifts that God gives us is the gift of family and friends, brothers and sisters in Christ with whom to walk this journey. We give thanks for each other as we share the peace that comes from God. The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Invitation to Offering

Practicing gratitude can change our lives as individuals;

it can change our life as a congregation.

With gratitude and joy,

let us bring our gifts of thanksgiving and love.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray, **We bless you, O God. You make everything with goodness designed for beloved community: ourselves, our time, and our belongings. We offer these gifts because we trust you with our dignity, purpose and belonging through Jesus Christ who gives us abundant life. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you and blessed is Jesus, the incarnation of your love. We remember that he preached your mercy, healed the afflicted, and welcomed the least and the last, giving them seats of honor at the table. On the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he fed the hungry crowds,
and on the way through Jericho he broke bread with Zacchaeus the tax collector and sinner.

We remember the last meal he shared in Jerusalem, when he took bread, 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.

We remember the evening of the third day, when he met the disciples on the Emmaus Road, joined them at the table, and shared bread with them. As we break this bread and share this cup, we witness your kingdom in our midst, celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ, and anticipate the welcome feast to come.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that in the fullness of time, every cup will be filled overflowing, every table will be one of welcome, and every life will be filled with abundant love. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Let us always keep your prayer in our hearts and be bold to pray,

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 Song

Give Thanks



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,



give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,



give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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Blessing Of The Loaves

In ancient times, when the fruits of the field were gathered in, God's people made pilgrimage to Jerusalem to give thanks for life and its blessings. We, too, have come as pilgrims to this sanctuary, to rejoice in the goodness of life and are sent out to give thanks and to serve.

Let us pray. O God, bless these loaves, and make us more conscious of all your gifts to us. As we take this bread from Christ's table of bounty into our homes, help us to see that our blessings do not truly prosper, until they bring blessings to others. As the bread at the communion table was broken and shared for the forgiveness of sins, may this bread broken and shared at our tables teach us unity and the joy that we learn to give in your name. Help us O Lord so to live, that our lives may be blessed through our service to you. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *Let All Things Now Living*

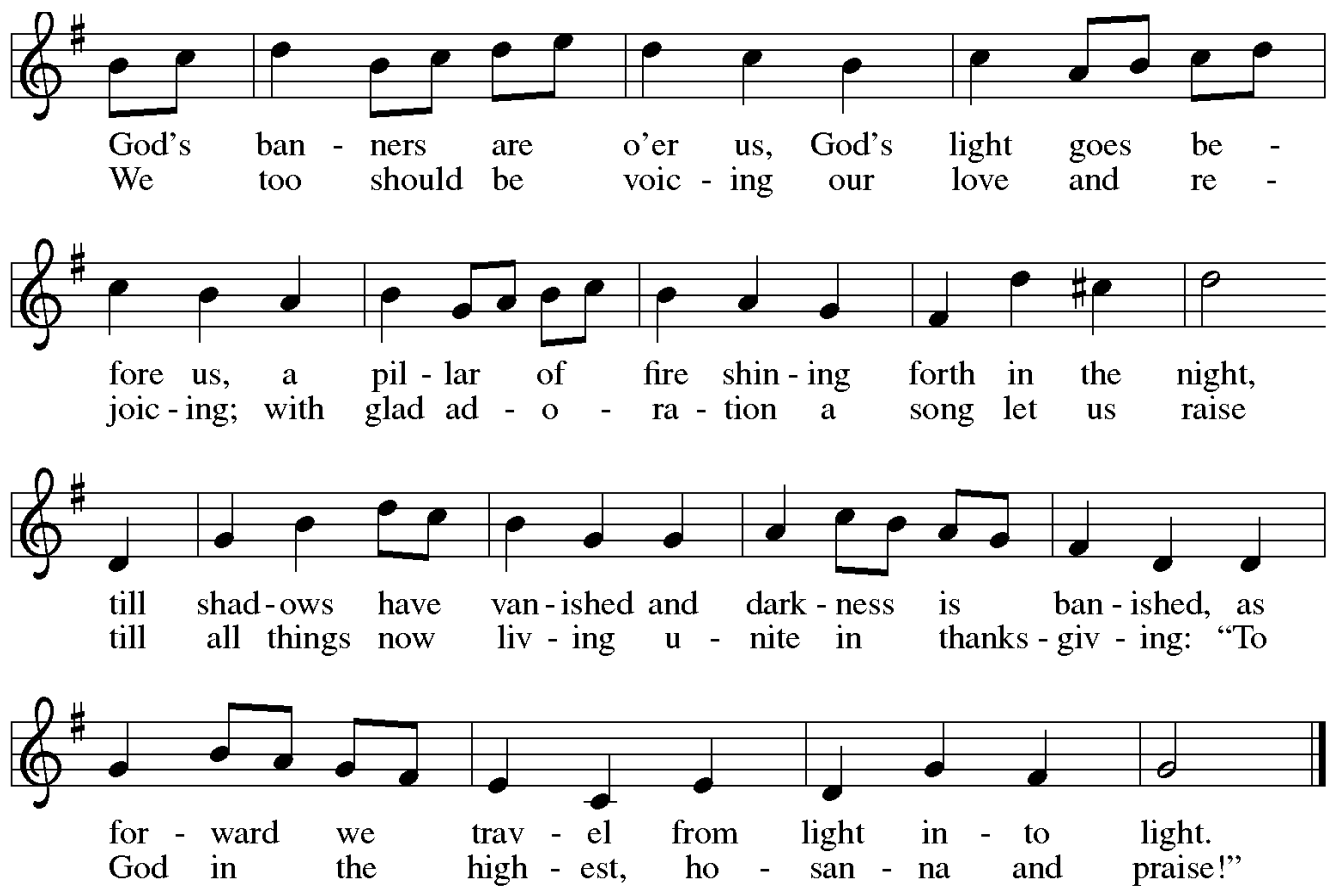
Cranberry 881

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the pro - end of our days.
deep of the o - cean claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

Blessing and Dismissal

Go forth with grateful hearts,
Eyes open to the beauty around you,
Hands ready to serve,
And hearts wide with thanksgiving.
May the God of abundance fill your life with joy,
The peace of Christ ☩ guard your spirit,
And the Spirit lead you in love. **Amen.**

Go in peace with thankful hearts. **Thanks be to God.**

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Call to worship edited from the World Council of Churches website.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/>

Eucharist Prayer edited from *Touch Holiness*, Ruth C Duck and Maren C Tirabassi, eds

Blessing of the Loaves from The New Union Prayer Book, "Gates of Prayer"