

Bethany Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Holy Communion

November 23, 2022

7:00pm

As winter darkness crosses the land, the nation takes time to offer thanks for the harvest and the abundant resources of this land. While this holiday witnesses many households gathering for a festive meal, Christians recognize that the source of all good things is the God who feeds the birds and clothes the grass of the field. Gathered at Christ's supper, we offer thanksgiving for the bread of life and the cup of blessing. And here, as we share these gifts, we are knit together into a community whose mission is among those who are poor and in need. We offer thanks to God for the bounty of the land and seek to share these riches with all in need.



+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: We Plow the Fields and Scatter the Good Seed

Variation: Alan F. Spear

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

P In the first year of the presidency of George Washington in 1789, the last Thursday of November was set aside for a Day of National Thanksgiving. Since that time, Americans have celebrated a day of thanksgiving in remembrance of all the blessings which God has poured down upon this nation and her citizens.

In a presidential proclamation President Abraham Lincoln established that we shall annually hold a national Day of Thanksgiving on the 4th Thursday of November, made the following declaration on October 3, 1863:

A *The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.*

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the

ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this 3d day of October, A. D. 1863, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By the President:

William H. Seward, Secretary of State

- P We gather together here tonight on the eve of our National Day of Thanksgiving for those very same reasons our forbearers gathered; to remember and to offer to God our thanks for a bountiful harvest, and the blessings of peace, hope, freedom, and life, even life eternal.
- C **Thanks be to God now and forever. Amen**



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P We gather in the name of the Father, who created and who sustains us with an everlasting love; God the Son, who redeems us; and God the Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in faith.

C **Amen.**

P Most merciful God,

C **you know our failings better than we do. Our sins are revealed in the suffering of our world. Our days and years pass by; and the things we trust and idolize fade like grass. Be gracious to us, O God. Guide us again to the water of life, and renew in us the covenant of our baptism; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in His mercy, has given Jesus to die for us, and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. By his death, he has reconciled the world to God and enabled us to live in love and harmony with one another and all of creation. We offer to God our thanks and praise for this gift of forgiveness and the precious gift of peace; and we pray that God might help us to forgive each other and establish the reign of God here amongst us. Each and every one of us is called by name and labeled as a beloved child! Despite our shortcomings, we are righteous in God's eyes. With all the faithful in heaven and on earth, rejoice and be glad!

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Almighty God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with people where they work; guide those who direct industry and commerce to be responsive to your holy will; give us all a pride in what we do, and grant us just compensation for our labor. Preserve for our use the fruitfulness of the air, land, and sea, that we, who constantly receive good things from you, may live lives of thankfulness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

We sit.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1–11

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, ²you 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. ³You 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." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you 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. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The 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; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So 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. ¹¹Then 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.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 126

Spoken Responsively

- L When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
- C **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
- L Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
- C **The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**
- L Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negev.
- C **Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.**
- L Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-9

[St. Paul writes:] ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry 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, beloved, 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. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN O Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW #480



1 O Bread of life from heav - en, O Food to pil -
2 O Fount of grace re - deem - ing, O Riv - er ev -



grims giv - en, O Man - na from a - bove: feed with the bless -
er stream - ing from Je - sus' wound-ed side: come now, your love



ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com - plete - ness
be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and flow - ing



the souls that want and need your love.
till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:25–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus 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. ²⁷Do 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." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So 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?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then 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. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."
³⁵Jesus 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid -
den splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh, let the veil
be riv - en, and our clear eye in heav - en
be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

We sit.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

+ MEAL +

We stand.

OFFERING HYMN: We Praise You, O God

ELW #870



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Merciful God,

C As grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P We thank you, almighty Lord, that you are the God of all, that you are not ashamed to be called our God, that you know us by name, and that you choose to walk in this world with us. For you have made us and called us in this life to be united to you, to be your people on this earth. Blessed are you, Maker of all that exists. Blessed are you, who have given us space and time to live in. Blessed are you for the light of our eyes and the air we breathe. We thank you for the whole of creation, for all the works of your hands, and for all you have done in our midst. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Holy God, Lord of all, earth and heaven are filled with your glory.

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna! in the highest!**

P Our Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed,

C **gathered to eat with his disciples.**

P He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it,
gave it to his disciples and said

take this and eat it, for it is my body which is broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

C **Then he took the cup of wine and in the same way after giving thanks, gave it to them, saying:**

P Take this, and drink from it.

This is my blood of the new covenant.

It is shed for you, for the forgiveness of your sins and for the sins of all.

Do this in remembrance of me.

When we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we commemorate Jesus' death and proclaim his resurrection until He comes again.

Lord, renew in our lives the Spirit of Christ, so that we may go forth and proclaim the good news with our lives.

C **For it is through him, and with him, and in him, that we find our way to our Heavenly Father, in the joy of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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.**

P These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P All are welcome to join in this feast! Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.

Gluten-FREE rice wafers are available upon request and for those desiring it, non-alcoholic wine cups are in the center of the tray.

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION: Variation on "Forest Green"

Alan F. Spear

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

C **Amen.**



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: For the Beauty of the Earth

Variation: Alan F. Spear

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska, Presiding Minister
Doug Boehm, Assisting Minister
Alan Spear, Organist
Kristin Garrity, Reader
Ruth Beck, Norma Pieratt, Altar Guild
Nora Storaasli, Kiera Piccony, Acolytes
Jon Habegger, Steve Deller, Ushers
Doug Boehm, Ruth Beck, Andrea Gustafson, Comm
Ass't

STAFF

Jeffrey Mikyska, Senior Pastor
Mark Waldron, Director of Music
Alan Spear, Organist
Steven Ritter, Visitation Pastor
Darlene Hutchens, Office Administrator
Susan Jarocki, Administrative Assistant
Ed McQuillan, Financial Secretary
Emma Hess, Youth Director

YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Alan Spear, Vice President
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Steve Mickelson, Treasurer
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Aidan Garrity
Brad Hirt

Pastor Jeff Mikyska
Jackie Page
Kathy Richmond
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Marsha Schuster

If you have questions or concerns for members of the Church Council you're invited to speak with them personally or via email to council@bethanybatavia.org.

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