

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
November 22, 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

512-863-7332

Georgetown, TX 78628

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *1 Chronicles 16:8-14a*

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.

People: Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts.

Pastor: Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

People: Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always.

Pastor: Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles and the judgments He pronounced, O descendants of Israel His servant, O sons of Jacob, His chosen one.

People: He is the LORD our God!

GLORIA PATRI: (“Glory be to the Father”)

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People: As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new to us every morning, and though we are undeserving of Your goodness You daily provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us, we pray, Your Holy

Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your blessings, give thanks for all Your benefits, serve You in joyful obedience, and so bear witness to the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that all the world may share in His salvation, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator”

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our Guide You have been.
When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Deuteronomy 8:1-10*

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in His ways and revering Him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and

you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.

Lector: Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day.

People: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Lector: For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.

People: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Lector: Splendor and majesty are before Him;

People: strength and joy [are] in His dwelling place.

HYMN: “Before You, Lord, We Bow”

Before, You, Lord, we bow, Our God Who reigns above
And rules the world below, boundless in pow’r and love.

Our thanks we bring
In joy and praise, our hearts we raise
To You, our King.

The nation You have blest may well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, protected by Your care.

For this bright day,
For this fair land—gifts of Your hand—
Our thanks we pay.

May ev’ry mountain height, each vale and forest green,
Shine in Your Word’s pure light, and its rich fruits be seen!

May ev’ry tongue
Be tuned to praise and join to raise
A grateful song.

Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, and worship Him alone.

Cast down your pride,
Your sin deplore, and bow before
The Crucified.

And when in pow’r He comes, oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng,

With joy to sing to heav'n's high King
Salvation's song!

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EPISTLE READING: *Philippians 4:6-20*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, 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. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength.

Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 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; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. I have received full payment and even more; 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. And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Lector: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns.

People: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Lector: Cry out, "Save us, O God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name, that we may glory in Your praise."

People: Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17th chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 17:11-19*

Now on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As He was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met Him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

When He saw them, He said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him - and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then He said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Apostles' Creed.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

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

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

SERMON: “More Than Saying, ‘Thank You’” (*Luke 17:11-19*)

HYMN: “Let All Things Now Living”

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.

His law He enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

People: Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God almighty. Righteous and true are Your ways, everlasting King of the ages.

Pastor: Blessed be Your glorious Name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the indescribable gift of the gospel spoken for the redemption of the whole world:

People: We rejoice in You, Lord of heaven and earth.

Pastor: For the industry of farmers, the persistence of workers, the patience of teachers, the wisdom of doctors, the eloquence of poets, and the artistry of musicians:

People: We rejoice in You, Distributor of varied gifts for the common good.

Pastor: For loving parents, healthy children, faithful friends, supportive neighbors, strong communities, and government committed to protecting the conditions under which these flourish:

People: We rejoice in You, God of infinite wisdom.

Pastor: For the valor of veterans and the courage of soldiers, striving justly to protect liberty and defend peace:

People: We rejoice in You, Commander-in-Chief of the armies of angels.

Pastor: For the care of pastors, the zeal of evangelists, the dedication of missionaries, and the determination of disciples in every walk of life to imitate Jesus in will and act:

People: We praise You, Shepherd and Reward of the Saints.

Pastor: For the Church, the body of Christ, assembled and equipped by His Spirit, sent in mission to the world faithfully to proclaim His Word and demonstrate His love, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail:

People: We praise You, Author and Defender of saving truth.

Pastor: For the promise that all who pass from this life believing in Jesus are forever joined to Him in the splendor of Paradise where pain has no place and death no mastery but where joy is limitless and life forever full:

People: We praise You, God of all grace, and cry out with Your people of every time and place: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. Amen.

VERSICLE: Psalm 107:1

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH and THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Your titles are many, God of goodness and enduring love, and each reveals holy truth, yet even the sum of them is insufficient. Who You are and What You are--Your glory and majesty, Your grace and mercy, Your power and dominion, Your wisdom and honor--exceed all bounds of human comprehension. We use words to address You and to describe what is indescribable because You reveal Yourself to us in the words of holy scripture. In Christ Jesus You made Your word to be flesh for us. He took upon Himself all the limitations of humanity to bestow on us the limitless joys of eternity.

We pray, Lord Jesus, for Your own grace of generosity. You withheld nothing for Yourself, but gave Yourself fully to death to rescue us from sin and hell. To the hungry You gave food, and to the ailing health; to the demon-possessed You gave freedom and to the dead new life. To nails and a cross You gave Your hands and feet that to

sinner You might give forgiveness. Grant us such selflessness, that on every occasion, whatever the need, we, too, will gladly give of ourselves for the blessing of others.

Father in heaven, Your Spirit has assembled us for worship this day, but within our fellowship, throughout our community, and across the globe there are many whose daily labors or conditions of life prevent them from joining us. We bless You for all who dutifully give up holidays to promote peace, support life, protect property, and maintain justice. We pray for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or incapacitated, and we ask You to keep their needs before us that we remember them in prayer and do whatever we can to comfort and sustain them. We ache, God of compassion, for those who enter this holiday season mourning the loss of loved ones. Grant them the comfort of Easter through the declaration of Your risen Son, "Because I live, you, too, will live."

God of peace, present with us in Jesus, the earth writhes in the pain of its fallenness. Natural disasters, moral decay, and political upheavals, threaten life and prosperity. Conflict rages across the globe, among nations, within families, and even in the Church that bears the name of Christ. The spiritual dangers of both great wealth and great poverty are amply evident; the tolls of pandemic and prejudice are undeniable; universal truths are not universally held; and the institutions that once undergirded the structures of societies are weakening. Exert Your strength, we pray. By the Gospel of Your Son's death and resurrection bring peace to all nations, our families, and the Church. Heal by Your grace the divisions, the fears, resentments, and jealousies that pit us against each other. By the forgiveness that flows from His wounds, bind us all to Christ and thus also to one another.

Spirit of God, work Your miracle of conversion near and far. Use us and the testimony You work in us to lead to Jesus those who do not yet know and love His name. Throughout this season and throughout our lives make the unbelieving the special focus of our prayers and attentions. Fill us with zeal for all Christian ministry that at the end of time, when Christ comes again, many will kneel in faith before Him and sing the song of the saved: "Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise."

All this and whatsoever else You would have us raise before You in thanksgiving or lift in petition, we pray, holy God, through Jesus Christ, Who taught us 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.

VERSICLES: Psalm 118:1-4

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

People: His love endures forever.

Pastor: Let Israel say:

People: His love endures forever.

Pastor: Let the house of Aaron say:

People: His love endures forever.

Pastor: Let those who fear the LORD say:

People: His love endures forever.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Our O Lord our God, we rejoice in the variety and plenitude of Your gifts, freely given to us for Jesus' sake. We delight to sing Your praises, and we seek only one thing more: joyful readiness to share Your blessings with others. Turn our natural selfishness to Christian generosity that all the world may know the love that endures forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION: (Numbers 6:24-26)

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God"

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 bless-ed 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.

Amen!

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DISMISSAL:

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Liturgist: Rev. Walt Pohland

Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott

Lector: Vicar John Cotner

Music: Adam Perez