



“Do not worry about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and petition, with

THANKSGIVING

let your requests be made known to God.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:6



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org



Thanksgiving Eve

Theme: We give thanks throughout the year!

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Gracious Father in heaven, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Your Word reveals your power and goodness to us, and your plans for every living thing. Accept our thanksgiving for all our blessings as we worship tonight in Jesus' name. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Romans 12:1 says *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship."*

It is God's mercy that moves us to thank him by offering ourselves to him. So great is our gratitude that we do so not only on this one day of thanksgiving, but throughout the year. In this worship service we walk through the Christian church year and meditate on how God gives us opportunities to give him thanks not on just one day, but in every season.

A THANKSGIVING THOUGHT:

The British author Charles Dickens said that we are somewhat mixed up here in America. Instead of having just one Thanksgiving Day each year, we should have 364. *"Use that one day just for complaining and griping," he said. "Use the other 364 days to thank God each day for the many blessings he has showered upon you."*

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Madison Boerner

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + www.salemlutheran.org + 651-439-7831

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Order of Worship



Choir Anthem

Songs of Thanksgiving

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
sing praise to His name, He forgets not his own.
Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine.
So from the beginning the fight we were winning,
Thou, Lord, on our side, the glory be Thine!

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices.
Who, from our mother's arms, Hath blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

Dank Sei Dir, Herr (Thanks Be to Thee)

Thanks be to God. We sing to Him our grateful praise.
For His great goodness, thanks be to God.

We Gather Together

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader in battle,
And pray that Thou still our defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name ever praised, O Lord, make us free. Thanks be to God!

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSIOIN & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: We read in James 1:17-18: *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created."* In truth, then, let us examine our hearts and come to him in repentance for those times we've failed to recognize his gifts or honor him as the Giver.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins.
Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live;

C: May our meditation be pleasing to him as we rejoice in the Lord. Amen.

THANKFUL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Be Thankful during the ADVENT SEASON

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39–47, 54–55

Thank God for HIS GIFT OF HOPE

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1, 4



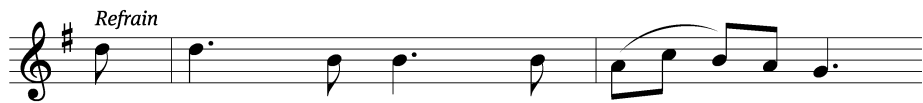
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Be Thankful during the CHRISTMAS SEASON

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Thank God for HIS GIFT OF JOY

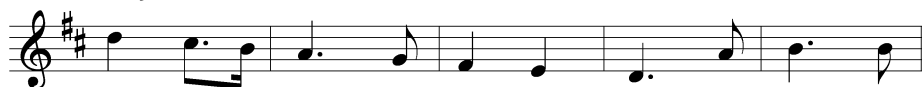
⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

HYMN: Joy to the World

CW 353 sts. 1-2



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Be Thankful during the EPIPHANY SEASON

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 10-17

Thank God for MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN TO US

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

HYMN: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

CW 386 sts. 1, 5



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to
5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mir - rored in your



you we raise, man - i - fest - ed by the star
ho - ly Word. May our lives and all we do



to the Ma - gi from a - far, branch of roy - al
im - i - tate and hon - or you that we all like



Da - vid's stem, in your birth at Beth - le - hem.
you may be at your great e - piph - a - ny



An-thems be to you ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.
and may praise you, ev - er blest, God in man made man-i - fest.

Be Thankful during the LENTEN SEASON

Reading

1 Corinthians 10:16, 17

Thank God for UNITING US, THROUGH DEATH, TO HIMSELF & HIS CHURCH

¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.



1 Sweet the mo - ments, rich in bless - ing, which be -
 2 Here we rest in won - der, view - ing all our
 3 Here we find the dawn of heav - en while up -



fore the cross we spend, life and health and
 sins on Je - sus laid; here we see re -
 on the cross we gaze, see our tres - pass -



peace pos - sess - ing from the sin - ner's dy - ing friend.
 demp - tion flow - ing from the sac - ri - fice he made.
 es for - giv - en, and our songs of tri - umph raise.

Be Thankful during the EASTER SEASON

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Thank God for OUR NEW BIRTH

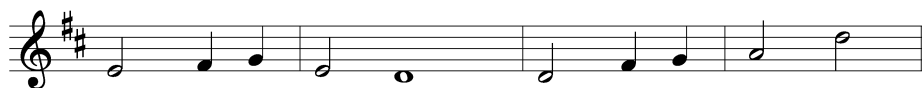
³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Hymn: With High Delight Let Us Unite

CW 467



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in songs of
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth in - to
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks and bring to Christ our



sweet ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, each
life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my shall
Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



take your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion.
van - quished be; his death has been death's un - do - ing.
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion.



To set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
"And yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," said
So shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Connect Card



Give Online

Handbell Offertory

O God Beyond All Praising

Please stand after the offering.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- M: Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.
- C: Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**
- M: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.
- C: Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.**
- M: Thank you for our cities and our countryside, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.
- C: Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.**
- M: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.
- C: Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.**
- M: Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.
- Silent prayer.*
- M: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.
- C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be Thankful during the PENTECOST SEASON

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:16-25

Thank God for the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Hymn: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

CW 705



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, and make my heart sincere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep,
- 4 Make me to walk in your com - mands—'tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Be Thankful during the END TIMES SEASON

Scripture Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

Thank God for OUR WHITE ROBES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

⁹After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

¹¹All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying:

“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’
‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

Hymn: Come, You Thankful People, Come

CW 491 sts. 3-4



3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har-vest home;



from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Luther's Explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Hymn: For the Fruits of His Creation

CW 506



1 For the fruits of his cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For his gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
found us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

WELS Connection

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: A Time to Yearn for the End

Bible Readings: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46

Hymns: 494, 487, 663, 850

Cover graphics for this bulletin provided by WELS Christian Aid and Relief.

WELS CHRISTIAN AID AND RELIEF

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). Easier said than done, right? Life in this broken world is hard. So many problems. So much to worry about. But our gracious God tells us: “Don’t worry. Bring it to me. I love you. I’ll take care of you.” What a relief it is to bring all our wants and worries to God, trusting that he cares for us. What a pleasure to do so with a grateful heart, thankful for all the ways he does care for us. Our God is so generous! He gives us far more than we need. One of the reasons he does this is so we can show our thankfulness to him by sharing his abundance with

others. With your faithful participation and generous support, WELS Christian Aid and Relief seeks to help you share God’s abundance. We do this in three main ways: we offer relief for those impacted by natural disasters, we support humanitarian aid projects in our WELS mission fields both at home and abroad, and we help WELS congregations assist their members who are dealing with extreme medical or financial challenges. Your special gifts, shared from the abundance God has showered on you, provide critical assistance to people who are hurting and result in many opportunities to share the precious gospel of our Savior. We thank you and we thank God for you!

Christian Aid and Relief grant totals for fiscal year 22-23:

\$1,641,154

DISASTER RELIEF: \$502,944 was utilized for disaster relief. Most recently we have provided disaster relief for those impacted by Hurricanes Ida and Ian, and the war in Ukraine.

HUMANITARIAN AID: \$708,958 helped to provide basic needs for people all over the world. Home missions receiving humanitarian aid grants include congregations in Canada, Colorado, New Mexico, Florida, and Texas. World mission fields in Africa, Asia, and Europe also received assistance.

PERSONAL GRANTS: \$429,252 was used to fund personal grants given through our congregations to assist people going through a health or financial crisis.

To learn more, visit wels.net/relief and fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief.

If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact Director Rev. Daniel Sims.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief
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Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

