

Order of Worship for November 19, 2023

Welcome

Children's Sermon

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the triune + God, who pours out love, justice, and mercy in abundance. **Amen.**

Joined by water to Christ and to creation, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

For all gifts of water, **we give you thanks, O God.**

For rivers and lakes, for streams and oceans, for healing rains and clean water to drink: **we give you thanks, O God.**

For Miriam's song of liberation on the far bank of the sea, for Isaiah's invitation to "come and drink, without money and without price," for Jesus's baptism and commissioning in the waters of the Jordan, for the Samaritan woman, revived by living water, for your holy river that waters the tree of life: **we give you thank, O God.**

For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, for baptismal waters, for the cleansing of our hearts, for the refreshment of our spirits, for waves of mercy, for justice, rolling like rivers: **we give your thanks, O God.**

Blessing, honor, and glory be to you, O God, and eternal gratitude for all your good gifts. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ELW #693 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come

and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

- 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God our Father, **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.**

First reading Deuteronomy 8:7-18

⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 100

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

2Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

3Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and

the sheep of his pasture.

4Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

5For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Second reading 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #870 We Praise You, O God

- 1 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.
- 2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
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.
- 3 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!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

Apostle's Creed

**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.

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.

Generous God, we thank you for the legacy and gift of the church. Make our proclamation clear, our generosity bold, and our community rich in welcome. We raise grateful hearts for the body of Christ where we find belonging. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

Creator of the earth, the bounty of creation reveals your abundant love. Provide safety and shelter for all wildlife. Save us from the waste of natural resources. We raise grateful hearts for the earth, our home. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

God of all nations, make all tribes and lands places where justice and inclusion is realized and celebrated. Protect any who are vulnerable and feed all who hunger. We raise grateful hearts for civil rights and just leaders. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you see us and are moved with compassion. Attend to those who are sick or dying, surround with love all who are lonely and despairing, and comfort those in need. We raise grateful hearts for your lovingkindness. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

God of the welcome table, you gather people to be shaped by your word. We pray for ministries that notice and respond to human needs: food banks, shelters, community resource centers. We raise grateful hearts for these organizations. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

God of life, you raise those who have died to new life in Christ. We raise grateful hearts for the lives and faithfulness of all the saints. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Thankoffering

As we make our Thankofferings today, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would act together as "cent" or "mite" societies. Each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds. When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, let us now give our thankoffering.

Let us pray. Gracious God, we give thanks each time we remember you and your blessings. Receive what we have offered now: our gifts, our time and our whole selves. Bless our thankofferings and the work of Women of the ELCA that these offerings make possible. Make us good and faithful stewards of your gifts, that all people know the bounty of your love. We pray in the name of Christ, **Amen.**

Noisy Offering

Offering Prayer

Dear God, **thank you for all our blessings. Help our blessings be a blessing to others. In your name we pray, Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you!**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

The God of abundance, Creator, + Redeemer, and Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending hymn ELW #840 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now 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.

2 Oh, 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.

3 All 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.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.