

WELCOME to the ST. PAUL LUTHERAN FAMILY

THANKSGIVING EVE

November 26, 2025

7:00 pm



Who's the Fool?

AS WE GATHER

Did you give thanks for your last meal? Most people—even Christians—often “forget” to give thanks. When we do not give thanks, we are like the rich fool of the parable, thinking it was his work that brought the grain, when in fact it was God who gave it to Him. When we do not give thanks, we become fools, forgetting who gave us what we have and all we are. Have you been foolish? That is what Jesus calls the rich man. Give thanks always—that is the advice of Paul. Above all, give thanks for the cross and the empty tomb, which opens heaven to us.

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8; 130:3–4*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to listen to God's Word, call upon Him in thanksgiving and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ at His very own Table, let us first consider our unworthiness to be invited to the feast of our Savior and confess before Him our sins of thought, word, and deed. Together, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we turn to our gracious Lord for His pardon and peace, seeking His grace and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God,

People: Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, grant that we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 26:1–11* (Firstfruits shall be given at the end of the journey.)

Reader: [Moses said,] "When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make His name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. And you shall make response before the Lord your God."

Men: A wandering Aramean was my father.

Women: And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

Men: And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor.

Women: Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

People: **And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders.**

Men: And He brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Women: And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which You, O Lord, have given me.

Reader: And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the Lord your God. And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 9:6–15* (We are called to be overflowing in our thanksgiving to God.)

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ He 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. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

893 Sing to the Lord of Harvest



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, Sing songs of love and praise;
 2 God makes the clouds rain good - ness, The des - erts bloom and spring,
 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar The gifts His good - ness gave,



With joy - ful hearts and voic - es Your al - le - lu - ias raise.
 The hills leap up in glad - ness, The val - leys laugh and sing.
 The gold - en sheaves of har - vest, The souls Christ died to save.



By Him the roll - ing sea - sons In fruit - ful or - der move;
 God fills them with His full - ness, All things with large in - crease;
 Your hearts lay down be - fore Him When at His feet you fall,



Sing to the Lord of har - vest A joy - ous song of love.
 He crowns the year with bless - ing, With plen - ty and with peace.
 And with your lives a - dore Him Who gave His life for all.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 12:13–21*

(A rich man becomes a fool because he does not see God as the reason to give thanks.)

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

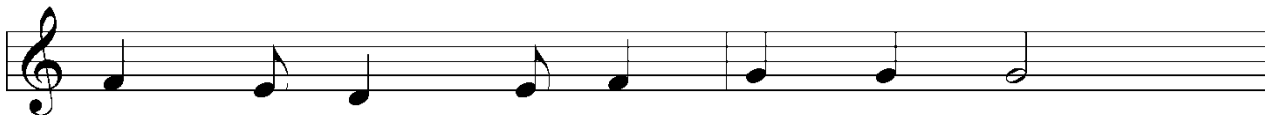
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

930 All You Works of God, Bless the Lord



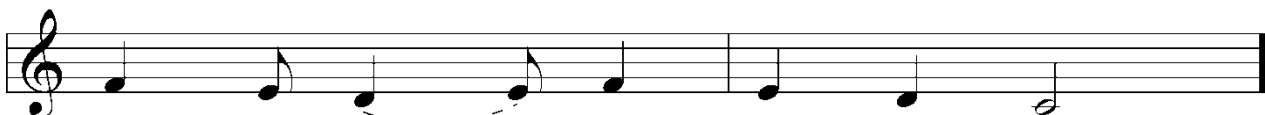
I All you works of God, bless the Lord!



All you an - gels, now bless the Lord;



Come, you heav - ens and pow'rs that be,



Praise the Lord and His maj - es - ty:

Refrain

Raise your voice - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,
 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
 Raise your voice - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,
 All you works of God, bless the Lord!

- 4 Hills and mountains, now sing His worth,
 All you green things that grow on earth;
 Seas and rivers, you springs and wells,
 Beasts and cattle, you birds and whales: **Refrain**

MESSAGE

- 5 Come, humanity, sing along,
 Sing, you people of God, a song;
 Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
 Join, you spirits and souls at rest: **Refrain**
- 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
 All you humble, His praise impart;
 God the Father and Son adore,
 Bless the Spirit forevermore! **Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: With great thanksgiving for all God has given us, we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs.

People: We come before the Lord with thankful hearts for all He has done. Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We recall that You have called us in Scripture to pray for kings and all in authority that we might live peaceful lives.

People: We lift up every ruler in every land; especially this day, we lift up our President, Congress, and all government officials. Guide all by Your Holy Spirit to accomplish Your will on this earth, that Your kingdom may truly come. Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We are also reminded by Your Word to pray for those who are persecuted.

People: We ask that You would be with them in their hour of trial; strengthen their faith and remind them of their great reward. Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Your Word calls us to remember the poor and those in need.

People: By Your Holy Spirit, open our eyes that we may see those who are poor and in need that we can serve them. Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We lift these and all the prayers of our hearts before Your throne, almighty God.

People: We pray in the name of Jesus, who with You and the Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

THE 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.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Please see our communion policy stated on the inside front cover.

THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION WINE: For those who may not be able to take regular wine, we offer non-alcoholic wine. The non-alcoholic wine is the light colored wine in the center of the communion tray

Please see our communion policy stated on the inside front cover.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

783 Take My Life and Let It Be



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
 At Thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
 bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
 sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
 2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
 3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
 Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

Pastor: We give thanks to You, Father in heaven, that You have purified us from our sin through the gift of Your Son's body and blood. By Your Spirit, You have been present with us in this Eucharist. Be present with us now as we depart in Your peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Thank You, O Lord, our God! When we are empty You fill us; when we are hungry you feed us. We have seen Your goodness and mercy. Now let us go into the world and bless Your name! Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

People: **To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: The blessing of our gracious God be upon you,
His love to preserve you;
His ✕ life to redeem you;
His Spirit to sanctify you.

People: **Amen.**

785 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.

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!

ASKING A BLESSING AND RETURNING THANKS

The following prayers are contained in Luther's Small Catechism as ways to ask for a pre-meal blessing and return thanks following the meal. Consider incorporating these as part of your Thanksgiving celebration.

Asking a Blessing

The children and members of the household shall go to the table reverently, fold their hands, and say:

The eyes of all look to You, [O Lord,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15–16)

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Returning Thanks

Also, after eating, they shall, in like manner, reverently and with folded hands say:

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. (Psalm 136:1, 25; 147:9–11)

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Where We Serve

Preacher Rev. Christopher Fairbairn
Officiant Rev. Jim Frusti

Elder Bob McGuigan

Ushers John Hasse
 Charleen Hill
 Bob McGuigan
 Pat McGuigan

Pianist Mick Dobday

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HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2025

(H/C = Holy Communion)

* Salem Lutheran Church (32430 Ann Arbor Trail - Westland, MI 48185) -noon services

Decorate Church 11/30/25 after 11am Service



11/26/2025 - Thanksgiving Eve Service – 7pm — Wednesday (H/C)

11/27/2025 - **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** - Thursday

11/30/2025 – Worship – 8:30am & 11:00am – Sunday

12/03/2025 – Advent noon Service – Wednesday – lunch follows service (Salem*)

12/03/2025 - Advent Dinner – 5:30pm – 6:45pm – Wednesday

12/03/2025 - Advent Service – 7pm – Wednesday

12/07/2025 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) - Sunday

12/10/2025 – Advent Noon Service - Wednesday -lunch follows service (Salem*)

12/10/2025 – Advent Dinner – 5:30pm-6:45pm – Wednesday

12/10/2025 - Advent Service -7pm - Wednesday

12/14/2025 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am – Sunday

12/17/2025 – Advent Noon Service- Wednesday -lunch follows service (Salem*)

12/17/2025 – Advent Dinner – 5:30pm-6:45pm – Wednesday

12/17/2025 - Advent Service -7pm –Wednesday

12/21/2025 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) – Sunday

12/24/2025 - Christmas Eve - 6:00 pm & 8:00pm – Wednesday

12/24/2025 - Christmas Eve Family Service - 10pm – Wednesday (H/C)

12/25/2025- Christmas Day Service – 10am — Thursday (H/C)

12/26/2025 – **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**- Friday

12/28/2025 - Worship – 8:30am & 11:00am - Sunday

12/31/2025 – New Years Eve Service – 6pm – Wednesday (H/C)

1/1/2026– **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** - Thursday