



Give thanks to God

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Thursday, November 27, 2024

THANKSGIVING EVE

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: “Give Thanks . . . Not Just For, But To . . .”

AS WE GATHER: At the corner of Hayden Hill and Walkley Hill roads in Haddam, Connecticut, stands the colonial home of one of the early resident families of that little town on the Connecticut River: the Thankful Arnold House. Now the location for the town’s Historical Society, it is the home where Thankful Clark Arnold and her husband, Joseph, raised their twelve children, beginning in 1798. The house stayed in the family for over 150 years until a family member gifted it to the local community. At one time, “Thankful” was a proper and common name for girls and women. It served as a testimony to the goodness of God throughout that individual’s life. In his “Song of Thanks” recorded in First Chronicles, King David exclaimed “Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!” (16:8). No matter what personal name we may carry throughout our lives, we can individually express our great thankfulness to God for all the blessings that we receive day by day and season after season.

PRELUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Lloyd Larson

Ascension Handbell Choir

WELCOME

For The Beauty Of The Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;

Refrain

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child;
Friends on earth and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mild: **(refrain)**

For Thyself, best gift divine,
To the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heaven: **(refrain)**

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 54:6; 79:13; 136:1; 145:10

P Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

C **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

P All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,

C **and all Your saints shall bless You!**

P I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good.

C **We, Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; from generation to generation we will recount Your praise.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:9, adapt.

P I will go to the altar of God,

C **to God my exceeding joy.**

- P** If we confess our sins, our God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- C** **Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.
- C** **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, creator of all things, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We know that have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You require of us. We have not always lived in thankfulness to You, the giver of all that is good. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Lord, who is the source of our salvation.**

- P** Our God has promised to hear us and to grant forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for His grace and mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you be kept steadfast in the Holy Spirit, living each day in thankfulness to God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 8:11-18 (ESV)

¹¹ “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His rules and His statutes, which I command you today, ¹² lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵ who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

¹⁷ Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ ¹⁸ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:6-13 (ESV)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 17:11-19 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

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

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

LSB 892

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.

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 Thou 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.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt., Text: Public domain

SERMON
“FORGET ABOUT IT”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Deuteronomy 8:11-18

For the Fruits of His Creation

LSB 894

- 1 For the fruits of His creation,
Thanks be to God.
For His gifts to ev'ry nation,
Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
Thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.

For the Fruits of His Creation, Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, Text: © 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)

Hello Again, Thanksgiving Day

Words and Music by Dan Williams

Ascension Choir

*Hello again Thanksgiving Day – It's been another year.
Seems like only yesterday when all of us were here.
It's easy to feel grateful for blessings come my way;
But Lord, it's been a painful year, and yet I still can say,*

*Thank You, Thank You! Lord, I've come to thank You.
How could I believe and not say, Thank You!
For all You've done for me and those things I just can't see.
On this Thanksgiving Day, Lord, I thank You.*

*At times I've been ungrateful, much to my regret.
But when I think of Jesus Christ who died to pay my debt;
I realize Your love for me is more than I can see,
And that You'll do what's best for me - in You I do believe!*

*And if the way is clear, we'll come again next year
To sing this song until we reach the land that knows no tears.*

RECEPTION OF SNOWCAP OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs, giving thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

Gracious God, gratefully we remember Your bountiful gifts to all of us. We remember Your many acts of kindness to Your people through all ages. We bless You for the orderly progression of the seasons and thank You for the bountiful harvest of the fruits of the earth. We thank You,

C **for Your steadfast love endures forever.**

P Almighty God, we thank You for the church, where Your Holy Spirit gathers us as Your people to receive Your gifts and celebrate Your goodness. Bless the work of missionaries, teachers, health workers, and all others who give witness to Your unchanging love. We thank You,

C **for Your steadfast love endures forever.**

P Giver of all good gifts, we thank You for the faithful labor of people living out their vocations for our welfare. Bless the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, who selflessly serve to defend our nation in challenging times and who guarantee our safety in times of peace. We remember those whose labor brings a rich variety of food to our tables in this and in every season. We thank You,

C **for Your steadfast love endures forever.**

P Lord of time and of eternity, we remember in our petitions those with special concerns and needs including the ill, the hospitalized, the homebound, those who sorrow, the unemployed, and anyone who struggles...Grant that we find purpose and blessing in assisting those who need our concern and our care. We thank You,

C **for Your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THANKSGIVING BLESSING

P Let us bless God together.
C My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, and never forget all His blessings. It is He who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion, and who fills your life with good things. Give thanks to the Lord, all His works, in every place where He rules. My soul, give thanks to the Lord! Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P 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.
C Amen.

Let All Things Now Living

tune: The Ash Grove

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 guideth us on to the end of our days.

His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

His law He enforces: The stars in their courses,
The sun in His 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,
'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Let All Things Now Living, Text by Davis, Katherine © 1939. Renewed 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company., Used by permission under CCLI License No. 759893

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233
Office Phone: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: www.alcportland.org
Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

STAFF

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor
pastor@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor
pastorekyah@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator
worship@alcportland.org

Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator
office@alcportland.org

Bonnie Webber, Treasurer
Rebecca Williamson, Assist. Treasurer
treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty,
Council Secretary
council@alcportland.org

Hana Brandt,
Deaconess Intern
deaconess@alcportland.org

Laura Potter, Property Management
alcproperty1440@gmail.com

