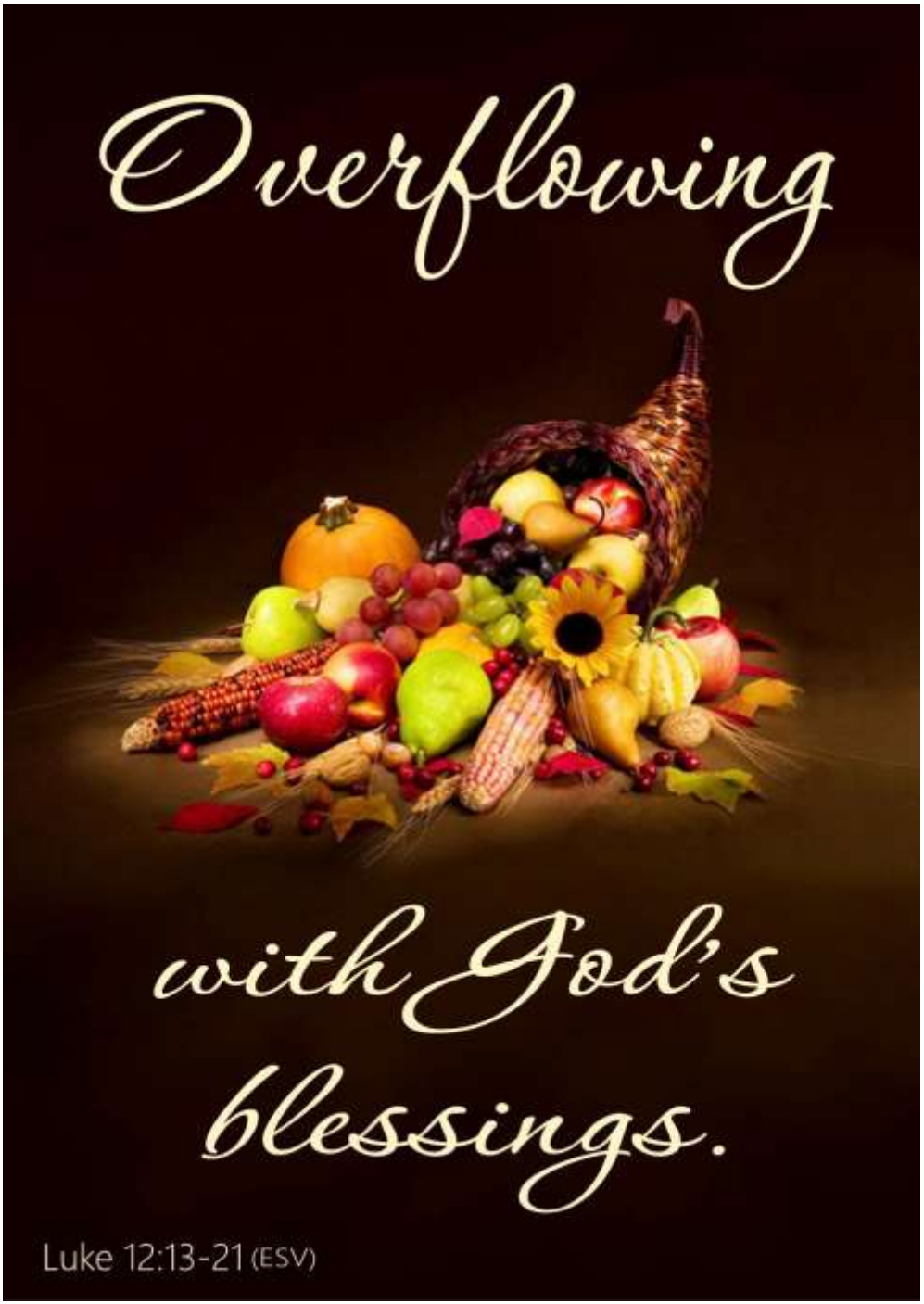


ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

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: "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.

PRELUDE

"Let All Things Now Living"
arr. D. Wagner
Handbell Choir

WELCOME

"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.

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 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

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father,

C **who created this world and each of us, a reason to give thanks;**

P and of the ✢ Son,

C **our ultimate reason for giving thanks because through His love and sacrifice on the cross we are saved;**

P and of the Holy Spirit,

C **who calls, gathers, and enlightens us in the one true faith in Jesus. Amen.**

OPENING SCRIPTURE from Psalm 104

P I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

C **I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

P O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all;

C **the earth is full of Your creatures.**

℗ These all look to You,

ℂ **to give them their food in due season.**

℗ When You give it to them, they gather it up;

ℂ **when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things.**

℗ When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created,

ℂ **and You renew the face of the ground.**

℗ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

ℂ **I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
Psalm 14:1; Romans 3:12; Psalm 136:1

℗ The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

We want to think it is other people David refers to in this verse. Yet Paul puts us all in the same category when he writes to the Romans,

ℂ **"All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed. We deserve Your punishment, both now and for eternity.**

Silence for reflection

℗ I have the best news for you as we celebrate and give thanks to God for all He has done this year. He has given us the greatest thing to be thankful for today—the forgiveness of all our sins. 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.

ℂ **"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." Amen.**

SALUTATION

℗ The Lord be with you.

ℂ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank You for all the mercies You have shown to us. You give us food and drink, a place we can call home, and most importantly, the sacrifice of Your Son on the cross to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation through His atoning death and resurrection, which conquered death and the grave forever. Help us not to be fools, that we instead give You thanks on this day and every day. We pray this 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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 8:1-10 (ESV)

1"The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. 2And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. 4Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. 5Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. 6So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in His ways and by fearing Him. 7For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the 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 in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land He has given you."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE **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 12:13-21 (ESV)

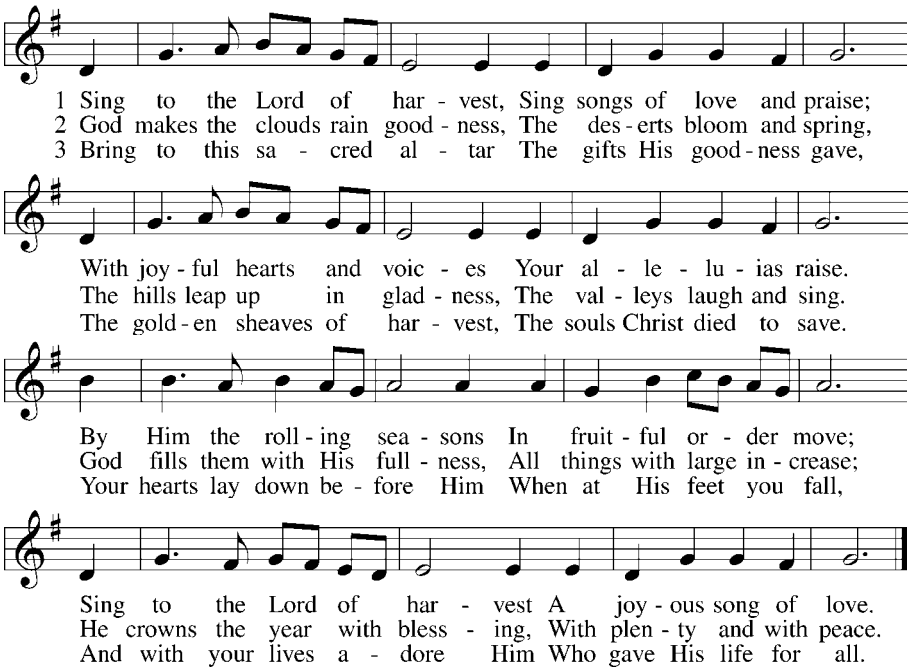
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

13Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to
divide the inheritance with me.” 14But He said to him, “Man, who
made Me a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15And 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.” 16And He
told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced
plentifully, 17and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have
nowhere to store my crops?’ 18And 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. 19And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have
ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ 20But
God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and
the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21So is the one
who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

PRAYER/LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest" LSB 893



"Sing to the Lord of Harvest", Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–75, alt., Tune: Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613, Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON Pr. Jim Sprengle
"OVERFLOWING" Luke 12:13-21

CREED: The First Article and Explanation

P This Thanksgiving, let us confess our Christian faith using the first article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation:

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

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.)

"Psalm of Thanksgiving" (based on Psalm 118)
Mary McDonald
Ascension Choir

RECEPTION OF SNOWCAP OFFERING

"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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious God, Your mercies are new every morning. Continually provide us with all we need to support this body and life, and grant that we would receive Your gifts with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, You cause the rain to fall on the righteous and the unrighteous, and You make the sun to shine on evildoers as well as those who do good. Spare Your people from drought and famine, that the land might produce a good harvest and that Your people might share Your bounty to feed this hungry world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, You have sent us forth in Your name as instruments of hope and love to a world in need. Bless the good work of all ministries of human care, that Christ would be made known through their works of mercy here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, we pray for the ill, the suffering and for all who mourn...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **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.

CLOSING SCRIPTURE Psalm 136:1–4

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

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

P Give thanks to the God of gods,

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

P Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

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

P to Him who alone does great wonders,

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

BENEDICTION

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"

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" (Prelude on "The Ash Grove"), arr. Douglas Wagner. © 2007 Lorenz Publishing Company. Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 4.

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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.

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