

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thanksgiving Day Service

HYMN 505 *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

INVOCATION

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

Assembly: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

Pastor: On this blessed day of Thanksgiving we offer our praise and thanks to our heavenly Father for the rich blessings he has showered on us again this year. He has opened his hands and poured out on us blessing after blessing. He has provided us with all that we need to sustain body and life. He has forgiven all our sins and given peace to our hearts. He has fed us with Word and Sacrament, thereby strengthening our faith and guiding our lives. For these and all our other blessings we raise our hearts in glad thanksgiving.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 100

Pastor: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Assembly sings...

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**

Pastor: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Assembly sings...

**Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of his mercy did shade you.**

Pastor: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name.

Assembly sings...

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work, and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
As with his love he befriends you.**

Pastor: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Assembly sings...

**Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him!**

THE WORD

First Lesson – Deuteronomy 8:10-18

Then you will eat, and you will be filled, and you will praise the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Be very careful so that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and ordinances and his statutes that I am commanding you today. When you eat and are satisfied, and you build nice houses and move into them, and your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold increase, and everything that you have prospers, watch out so that your heart does not become arrogant and forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, where you were slaves. Do not forget the Lord, who led you in the great and terrifying wilderness, where there were venomous snakes and scorpions, where the thirsty ground had no water, but the Lord made water come out of a flint rock for you. Do not forget the Lord, who in the wilderness fed you manna, which your fathers had not known before, to humble you and to test you so that it would be good for you later on.

You might say in your heart, “My ability and the power of my hand have earned this wealth for me.” But then you are to remember that the Lord your God is the one who gives you the ability to produce wealth, to confirm his covenant that he promised to your fathers with an oath, as he does to this day.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 129B (See bulletin insert)

Second Lesson – Philippians 4:10-20

I rejoice greatly in the Lord now that you have revived your concern for me once again. Actually, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I

lack anything; in fact, I have learned to be content in any circumstances in which I find myself. I know what it is to live in humble circumstances, and I know what it is to have more than enough. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, while being full or hungry, while having plenty or not enough. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. Nevertheless, you did well by becoming partners with me in my affliction.

You Philippians know that in the beginning of your experience with the gospel, when I left Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. Even while I was in Thessalonica, you sent help more than once for my needs. Not that I am seeking a gift, but I am seeking the fruit that adds to your account. I have been paid in full, and I have more than enough. I am fully supplied since I've received from Epaphroditus the things that came from you, a sweet-smelling fragrance, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God will fully supply your every need, according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever! Amen.

Adult Choir – “We Are Blessed”

The Gospel Lesson – Luke 17:11-19

On another occasion, as Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee. When he entered a certain village, ten lepers met him. Standing at a distance, they called out loudly, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” As they went away they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, thanking him. And he was a Samaritan. Jesus responded, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go your way. Your faith has saved you.”

HYMN 506 “For the Fruits of His Creation”

The Sermon “Don't Forget!” Deuteronomy 8:10-18

The Offering Hymn- 754, v. 2 “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness”

LITANY OF THANKS AND PRAISE FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

Pastor: We praise you, Lord God, for revealing yourself to us as the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Assembly: **Lord, help us to fear, love, and trust you all the days of our lives.**

Pastor: Lord God, Almighty Father, you made us the crown of your creation, giving us body and soul, eyes, ears, and all our members, our mind and all our abilities. And you still preserve us with everything we need for our body and life.

Assembly: **Richly and daily you provide clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all we own. And you defend us against all danger and guard and protect us from all evil. All this you do purely out of goodness and mercy, and not because we have earned or deserved it. For this we thank and praise you.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you have redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. You did this, not with gold or silver, but with your holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death.

Assembly: **You did this that we might be your own special people, that we might live under you in your kingdom, that we might serve you in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, now and forever. For this we thank and praise you.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, through the gospel of our salvation you have called us to faith in Jesus Christ, enlightened us with your gifts, sanctified us and kept us in the true faith.

Assembly: **For this we thank and praise you. Keep us ever in this faith and guide us so that we always do what is acceptable to our heavenly Father.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, you have brought us together with others who share our faith so that we might encourage one another in faith and good works.

Assembly: **We thank and praise you for the opportunity to serve you in countless ways here in our church. Keep us from being discouraged if others don't recognize our efforts as we think they should. Let our Savior's work for us always be reason enough to continue serving one another.**

Pastor: Almighty Father, you have given us our homeland a bountiful nation, a land of freedom and opportunity. We praise you for the countless arts and skills you have given to serve our needs and pleasures.

Assembly: **We thank and praise you for the ability to create and manufacture the goods we need and desire, for the sciences that reveal your works and arts that proclaim them. Bless our land, our people, and those who rule over us, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.**

Pastor: Dear Lord, we thank you for our homes: for parents who have faithfully trained us; for our spouse who loves and cares for us; for children who bring so much joy into our lives; for the many material blessings which fill our homes.

Assembly: **We thank and praise you for all your good gifts which you have given to us through our families.**

Pastor: Dear Lord, we thank you for the special abilities and gifts which you have given each one of us.

Assembly: **Help us show our thankfulness by using those abilities and gifts to serve our families and our fellow believers; service done out of love for you.**

Pastor: For all your blessings, O Lord, we glorify you today, tomorrow, and always.

Assembly: **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His mercy endures forever. Amen.**

HYMN 507 *“Let All Things Now Living”*

Pastor: With thankfulness, we join in praying the Lord’s Prayer:

Assembly: **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.**

The Benediction

Assembly: **Amen. Amen. Amen.** *(sung)*

HYMN 509 *“Feed Your Children, God Most Holy”*



129B From Youth They Oppressed Me *Psalm 129B*



1 “From youth they op - pressed me,” let Is - ra - el say,
2 May all who hate Zi - on be turned back in shame,



“yet they are not claim - ing the vic - t’ry to - day!
nor hear of the bless - ings that come in God’s name.



The wick - ed their fur - rows have plowed in my back,
Like with - er - ing grass may the e - vil ones be,



but God set me free from their e - vil at - tack.”
while God from all harm keeps his ho - ly ones free.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Ronald Knueppel/Randy Sellnow

ORGANISTS: The **December** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

CALL MEETING: As you may have heard, Pastor Jesse Knox returned our pastoral call. Because of this, we have scheduled a new call meeting for **Sunday, December 1**. This meeting will begin at approximately **10:30 AM** as we will have our circuit representative in attendance and need to accommodate his time schedule. All voting members are encouraged to participate!

CHURCH RE-DEDICATION SERVICE: A special re-dedication service for our church is scheduled for **Sunday, December 8**, at **9:00 AM**. Many of our school children will be singing at this service and a fellowship hour will follow the service. We hope many of you will take the time to attend this service giving thanks to all those who helped make our church refurbishment project such a beautiful success and especially to praise God for the many blessings he has provided our church and congregation throughout the years!

AREA ADVENT SERVICE & CHILI SUPPER: Bethany Lutheran Church in Hustisford will be hosting an Advent service of lessons and carols on **Wednesday, December 4**, for our area WELS congregations. There will be a chili supper from **5:30-6:15 PM**, and the service will start at **7:00 PM**. If anyone would like to bring something for the meal, a dessert to share would be welcome. Bethany is located at 269 N. Lake Street in Hustisford. They hope to see you there!

CHURCH DECORATING: Please join us on **Saturday, December 7**, beginning at **11:00 AM** to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. Those in attendance and helping with the decorating will be welcome to take part in a pizza party that day as well. If you plan on attending, we ask that you sign up on the sheet located on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please include your name and the number of people in your family who will be participating. This will help us in deciding how many pizzas need to be ordered. Thank you!

POINSETTIAS will be purchased and placed in church for the Advent and Christmas season services. If you wish to order a poinsettia (or two) to be placed in church for these services, be sure to sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board. You can take your poinsettia(s) home after the Christmas Day service on **Wednesday, December 25**, or leave it in church for the next Sunday service or until Christmas decorations are taken down. The cost is **\$10.00** per plant. Please contact **Wayne** or **Bonnie Schultz** if you have questions.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Boxes of Christmas cards are available for purchase from the “*Greeting Card Corner*” display in the church basement. Just pick out the boxes that you wish to purchase, complete a payment envelope, and give it to **Diane Koch** or place it in her church mail slot.

SCRIP: If you are still looking for some Christmas gift ideas, check out our scrip (gift card) program. There are various ways to place your order and to obtain your cards. Please direct any questions you may have to **Holly Daley**, our scrip coordinator. There is just **ONE** ordering deadline left before Christmas—**Thursday, December 12**. No orders will be taken after that date until January.

FLOWER CHART: The 2025 flower chart is now hanging in the school hallway. If you wish to provide flowers for the altar during the coming year, please sign up under the appropriate date(s).

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Earl Moldenhauer by his family.

WE THANK the adult choir for enriching our Thanksgiving Day service with their song!